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Japan

USSR Gorbachev's Upcoming Visit Previewed

KYODO Carries Schedule

OW1304040891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0353 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—The following is the schedule in Japan of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

April 16 (Tuesday)
(morning)
—arrival at Tokyo International Airport at Haneda, Tokyo
—welcome ceremony at Akasaka State Guesthouse

(around noon)
—meeting with Emperor Akihito at Imperial Palace

(afternoon)
—to receive call by Tokyo Governor Shunichi Suzuki at Akasaka State Guesthouse
—first round of summit talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at Akasaka State Guesthouse

(evening)
—to attend Soviet Art Festival concert at Tokyo Bunka Kaikan Hall at Ueno, Tokyo
—Court banquet at Imperial Palace

April 17 (Wednesday)
(morning)
—second round of talks with Kaifu at Akasaka State Guesthouse

(around noon)
—to attend luncheon given in his honor by Keidanren business group at Hotel New Otani
—to address House of Representatives plenary session
—meeting with academics and students at Hotel New Otani
—third round of talks with Kaifu at Akasaka State Guesthouse
—to attend dinner given in his honor by Kaifu at his official residence in evening

April 18 (Thursday)
(morning)
—tree planting ceremony at Akasaka State Guesthouse
—fourth round of summit talks with Kaifu at Akasaka State Guesthouse; (this item not yet formally set)
—visit to Shinjuku Gyoen Park, new Tokyo City Hall
—visit to bulldozer factory near Tokyo

(around noon)
—to attend luncheon given in his honor by parliamentary leaders (afternoon)
—agreement/document signing ceremony at Akasaka State Guesthouse
—to receive farewell call by Emperor Akihito at Akasaka State Guesthouse
—press conference at Japan National Press Club
—to attend World Children Festival at Yoyogi National Gymnasium

(evening)
—to attend reception given in his honor by representatives of political parties and business circles, at Hotel New Otani

April 19 (Friday)
(morning)
—to leave Tokyo by Shinkansen bullet train for Kyoto
—tour of Kyoto

(around noon)
—to attend luncheon given in his honor by seven groups at Miyako Hotel

(afternoon)
—to leave for Nagasaki from Osaka Airport
—visit to Russian cemetery in Nagasaki
—to leave Japan for Cheju Island, South Korea

To Sign 'At Least' 14 Accords

OW1304052091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0512 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Japan and the Soviet Union will conclude at least 14 accords during Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit next week, Foreign Ministry officials say.

Foreign Ministers Taro Nakayama and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh will sign the documents in a ceremony Thursday, officials said.

The 14 documents agreed to so far include five agreements, or treaties, four exchanges of notes, three memorandums, and two joint statements.

The first agreement concerns Japanese technical assistance to the Soviet Union in 1991-93 to facilitate perestroyka and the country's switch to a market economy.

It provides for visits by Soviet management trainees, the dispatch of Japanese private and government experts, and the holding of seminars in such fields as finance, production, distribution, and labor productivity.

The second agreement is a new trade and payments pact for 1991-95, replacing one signed in 1986 that expired at the end of last year. It covers trade promotion, methods of payment, and dispute arbitration.

The third covers Moscow's pledge to hand over a list of Japanese prisoners of war who died in Siberia after World War II, and promises to improve the conditions of their graves and make it easier for relatives to visit the graves.

The fourth is on environmental protection. It outlines exchanges of experts, joint committee meetings and research, and information exchanges in such areas as air and water pollution, land pollution from industrial spills, and the flora and fauna in each country.

The fifth calls for cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear power, including exchanges of experts and information in nuclear safety, environmental control, and fundamental research.

It envisages the Soviet Union obtaining advanced Japanese technology for controlling nuclear power plants and radioactive waste, while Japan would study the Soviets' development of fast breeder reactors.

The first exchange of notes renews a coastal trade pact between Japan and the Soviet Far East, which provides for the promotion of trade in consumer goods.

The second is on cultural exchanges in 1991-1992, including students exchanges and art exhibitions, concerts and film showings.

The third note creates new air routes between Niigata on Japan's northwestern coast and Irkutsk, and between the central Japanese city Nagoya and Moscow.

The fourth allows Japan to increase its flights across Siberian airspace to Western Europe.

The first memorandum provides the basis for strengthening working-level talks between the two governments in such fields as trade, culture, science, and economics.

The second covers measures to deal with the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, including exchanges of research data and the treatment of radiation-linked thyroid gland troubles.

The third sets out cooperation in protecting cultural assets by allowing joint research and technical cooperation in the excavation of the Pazyryk burial site in southern Siberia.

The first joint statement outlines plans for joint organization of exhibitions and trade fairs. The second covers cooperation on establishing a modern Japan research center in Moscow and sending experts to the center.

In addition to the above agreements, the two sides may reach an accord on fishing zones and rights in waters surrounding four disputed islands off Hokkaido, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Japan also reportedly is ready to offer the Soviets proposals for help in converting defense industry facilities to civilian use.

Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is prepared to receive Soviet specialists so they can learn from Japan's experience in that area after World War II, government sources said.

Kyoto To Mobilize for Security

OW1504080991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Kyoto, April 15 KYODO—The Kyoto Prefecture Police Department said Monday it will mobilize 5,000 police officers for the security of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during his visit to Kyoto on Friday.

Gorbachev and his wife Raisa will make a brief sightseeing tour of the ancient capital on the last day their four-day stay in Japan.

Police sources [said] Kyoto laid out the security plan—one of the tightest ever arranged for a visiting dignitary—to cope with possible disruptions of the Gorbachev trip by leftist radicals and ultranationalist rightists.

Rightist groups, known for their aggressive campaigns for the return of four Soviet-occupied islands off northern Japan, are planning to launch parades on the streets of Kyoto to press their demands.

Leftist radicals, including the Chukaku-Ha group, have called for an anti-Gorbachev rally during his visit.

Chukaku-Ha, which has accused Gorbachev of betraying the communist cause, has a record of launching bomb attacks and other terrorist activities against the Japanese political establishment.

Gorbachev arrives in Kyoto from Tokyo by the Shinkansen "bullet train" on Friday morning and leaves for Nagasaki in the afternoon.

His schedule in Kyoto includes a sight-seeing trip to the 16th century Nijo Castle and a luncheon speech to top businesspeople from the Kyoto-Osaka-Kobe area.

While in Tokyo, Gorbachev will be protected by a 23,000-strong police force.

USSR Advance Team Member on DPRK Inspections

OW1504100791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The Soviet Union has warned North Korea it would halt uranium supplies and cooperation with its nuclear program unless Pyongyang agrees to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection, the director of a leading Soviet think tank said Monday.

Vladlen Martynov of the Institute for World Economy and International Affairs, a member of a Kremlin advance team, made the remarks at a briefing for the press covering Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan beginning Tuesday.

Japan, which is holding talks with Pyongyang on normalization of diplomatic ties, has demanded that North Korea submit its nuclear facilities to international inspection over fears Pyongyang may develop nuclear weapons in the next couple of years.

Martynov also told reporters the disputed islands issue, a main focus of talks between Gorbachev and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, would be "impossible" to resolve without the participation of the Russian Republic.

Japanese observers and analysts have speculated the Soviet leader may be visiting Japan to negotiate at least a partial deal for the islands.

But Martynov discouraged such speculation by saying the four islands off Hokkaido "continue to belong to Russia" and a resolution of the problem would require "a collective decision of the central government and the Government of Russia."

At the same briefing, Presidential Spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said Gorbachev would likely invite Kaifu to Moscow in August, but Ignatenko would not speculate about the content of the talks, saying, "it's hard to tell even what tomorrow's talks will be about."

Gorbachev is scheduled to meet for three rounds of talks with Kaifu. The islands are likely to be discussed at each of the three scheduled meetings, said Ignatenko, who left open the possibility of a fourth meeting.

Kaifu Told To Take 'Hard Line' on Islands

OW1504065491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Political elders advised Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Monday to take a hard line in discussions with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Japan's claim to four islands off Hokkaido, government sources said.

Kaifu told the senior politicians that he plans to stand by Japan's position that in principle all four islands must be returned simultaneously when he meets with Gorbachev later this week.

Kaifu and Gorbachev are slated to take up the dispute Tuesday in the first round of Japan-Soviet summit talks ever to be held in Japan.

Three summit meetings are planned during Gorbachev's Tuesday- Friday visit, with the possibility of a fourth session depending on the outcome of the earlier rounds.

Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone urged Kaifu to avoid making concessions on the unresolved territorial dispute, the sources said.

"We should continue persevering with negotiations and correct (Joseph) Stalin's mistake," Nakasone was quoted as saying.

Under Stalin's leadership, the Soviet Union joined the fight against Japan in the closing days of World War II and its troops occupied the four disputed islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai islet group.

Former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki called on Kaifu to defend Japan's basic position and to stick to the stance adopted by Japan during the past 45 years of exchanges.

Kaifu told the elders the government remains undecided on whether to extend financial assistance to the Soviet Union.

Japan has long said that opening the way to full-fledged economic relations is dependent on resolution of the island dispute.

Kaifu also said that no decision has been made on whether he should pay a reciprocal visit to Moscow in August.

Susumu Nikkaido, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said Japan should continue to refuse to sign a peace treaty with the Soviet Union until there is "some sort of conclusion to the territorial dispute."

Also attending the gathering at Kaifu's official residence were former prime ministers Noboru Takeshita and Takeo Fukuda, and two former speakers of the House of Representatives—Kenzaburo Hara and Hajime Tamura.

It is customary for the prime minister to consult with predecessors prior to entering major diplomatic talks.

Soviets Outline Aid Needs on Bank Financing

OW1304060091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0549 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—The Soviet Union has presented a list outlining its assistance needs as requested by the Export- Import Bank of Japan for emergency loans, government sources said Saturday.

The long-delayed list paves the way for the government-financed bank to provide 100 million dollars in emergency loans to the Soviet Union as part of Japan's emergecy aid package announced last December.

Despite a continued dispute over four islands off northern Japan seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II, Tokyo went ahead with the package, including 500 million yen each for food and medical aid, as a humanitarian gesture.

Japan has already extended the food and medical assistance, but the Soviet delay in outlining its needs for Ex-Im Bank financing has blocked disbursement of low-interest loans.

The Soviet list mainly specifies food and medical needs, the sources said.

The bank is now scrutinizing the list to draft specific lending plans before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan from April 16 to 19, they said.

They said the government wants to enable Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to disclose the lending plans when he meets the Soviet leader.

But related work has been delayed due to communication problems with the Soviet side, apparently because of political upheaval in that country, the sources said.

USSR Ready To Lift Flight Restrictions

OW1304074091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0721 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo April 13 KYODO—The Soviet Union has told Japan it is ready to remove restrictions on the number of Japanese commercial flights over Siberia by the end of March 1995, Transport Ministry officials said Saturday.

The officials said Japan will respond by taking similar steps toward Soviet airliners.

They said the two countries will confirm their positions in future civil aviation talks to pave the way for opening their respective airspaces to each other.

In the initial step, the officials said, Moscow agreed in aviation talks in January to increase the number of Japanese commercial flights over Siberia from the present 35 per week to 80 by fiscal 1994.

Moscow currently restricts foreign commercial flights over Siberia for security reasons in disregard of the charter of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), of which it is a member.

The charter calls for member countries to grant commercial aircraft free access to their airspace.

Western nations counter the Soviet stance by imposing similar restrictions on Soviet airliners flying over their airspace.

Japanese and Soviet airlines now operate only two regular routes between Narita International Airport in Chiba Prefecture and Moscow, and between the northern Japanese city of Niigata and Khabarovsk in Siberia.

Passenger traffic between the two countries, however, has recorded a double-digit increase annually since 1986, exceeding 120,000 in fiscal 1990, which ended March 31. Cargo traffic trebled over the same period.

Japanese airlines plan to open new regular routes between Nagoya and Moscow, and Niigata and Irkutsk, Siberia, this year.

Soviet airliners may be allowed to open new routes linking the Soviet Far East and the Pacific islands of Hawaii and Guam through Japan in the future, the officials said.

Red Cross Prepares Medicines for Soviet Far East

OW1204182791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1433 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—The Japanese Red Cross Society decided Friday to send 32 million yen worth of medicines to the Soviet Union by way of aid ahead of Soviet President Mikhail Gobachev's visit to Japan scheduled for next Tuesday through Friday.

A shipment of the medicines will be carried on Monday from Niigata airport to Khabarovsk by an Aeroflot plane. The medicines will be distributed in the Soviet far eastern region, including Sakhalin and Amur, by the Soviet Red Cross Society.

The expense will be paid from the 1 billion yen fund contributed to the League of Red Cross Societies by the Japanese Government for aid to the Soviet Union.

In mid-March, a shipment of medicines and powdered milk, thus purchased, was also sent to Sakhalin.

Company To Halt Powdered Milk Exports to USSR

OW1204123391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Snow Brand Milk Products Co. of Japan will halt exports of baby-formula powdered milk to the Soviet Union due to payment arrears, company officials said Friday.

According to the officials, about one-third of Soviet payments are in arrears for products exported in 1990, apparently reflecting the dwindling Soviet foreign currency reserves.

Snow Brand began exporting powdered milk to the Soviet Union in December 1989, and shipped 200,000 cases via Sumitomo Corp. in 1990. Each case contains 24 450-gram cans.

Payments for 75,000 cases of the 1990 exports are still in arrears, the officials said.

The company has received an order for 75,000 cases for 1991, but shipments will be suspended until the arrears are paid, they said.

Fewer Defensive Interception Scrambles in FY '90

OW1204125291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Japan's Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) fighters scrambled 604 times in response to the approach of planes of unknown nationality during fiscal 1990 which ended in March 1991, the smallest number in 10 years, ASDF officials said Friday.

The previous low in the number of defensive scrambles was the 675 recorded in 1983, the officials said.

They also said the latest figure is about 200 fewer scrambles than in fiscal 1989.

The officials attributed the decrease to a reduction in the number of Soviet fighter flights around Japan.

The number of surveillance flights by Soviet fighters was also cut back in response to a reduction in scale of the regular joint U.S.-South Korea "Team Spirit" military drill, held in February, the officials said.

By region, 129 approaching planes of unknown nationality were intercepted around Kyushu in southern Japan during fiscal 1990, about one-third fewer than in fiscal 1989, the officials said.

But ASDF fighters scrambled against 317 planes of unknown nationality around Hokkaido in northern Japan, up from 231 during fiscal 1989.

USSR Air Forces 'Less Active'

OW1504081591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0743 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The Soviet air defense forces have been markedly less active in the Far East over the past year, possibly reflecting attempts to upgrade the efficiency of its air defense system, Japanese Defense Agency sources said Monday.

The number of scrambles by the air defense forces against unidentified aircraft flying toward Soviet airspace around the Kuril Islands and the Sea of Okhotsk is less than half what it was a year ago, the sources said.

The number of scrambles by Soviet interceptors ranged from 30 to 300 a day across the Soviet Union in the mid-1980s, according to an official document of the Soviet Defense Ministry.

In a recent incident, the Soviet air defense forces did not react to a Thai airliner which accidentally flew over Sakhalin after experiencing engine trouble, the sources said.

The Soviet air defense forces, in charge of air defense, including space, are part of the Soviet armed forces, along with the strategic rocket forces, the ground forces of the Army, the Air Forces and the Navy.

In September 1983 they shot down a South Korean airliner off Sakhalin, killing all 269 passengers and crew members on board.

The air defense forces man more than 1,000 interceptors and 9,000 radar sites across the Soviet Union.

Naval Force Launches Minesweeping Drill

OW1504040891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0226 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) began a 10-day minesweeping drill on Monday in Ishikari Bay, Hokkaido, government officials said.

The drill began amid speculation that the government will decide later this month to dispatch MSDF minesweepers to the Persian Gulf as part of Japan's contribution to cleaning up the effects of the Gulf war.

Opposition parties are against the dispatch of naval or other defense personnel to the Gulf, saying it would be a contravention of Japan's war-renouncing Constitution.

The officials said the drill is one of regular exercises held four times a year that include the laying and sweeping of mines, and the latest drill was scheduled before the controversial discussions on the issue began in parliament.

A minelayer, the Soya, eight minesweepers and 19 aircraft, including P3C antisubmarine patrol planes, are taking part in the Ishikari drill.

If the government decides to send minesweepers to the Gulf, it is expected that four of the MSDF's 38 minesweepers and two other ships such as supply vessels will be dispatched on the mission.

Plan to Send Medical Team to Gulf Announced

OW1504064391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Japan will send a medical team consisting of more than 10 members in a few days to the Middle East to help Kurdish refugees, officials said Monday.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama announced the plan at a meeting of officials from the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party who discussed how to help Kurdish refugees.

It was agreed at the meeting that Japan should give more aid to the Kurds in material, financial, and personnel terms.

Foreign Ministry officials told the session that Japan has already provided the refugees with 10 million U.S. dollars (1.35 billion yen) in financial assistance, as well as 52.68 million yen worth of medical supplies and 41.1 million yen worth of blankets and other supplies.

New LDP Secretary General, U.S. Envoy Meet

OW1504104891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1010 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost on Monday called for Japan to positively tackle the issue of opening its rice market to conclude the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Armacost made the appeal in a meeting with Keizo Obuchi, the new secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], saying Japan and the United States should solve pending problems through negotiations, citing the Uruguay Round as one of them, party officials said.

The ambassador told Obuchi that Japan and the U.S. should try to tell Americans both countries are cooperating in making trade rules, they said.

The secretary general said he believes Japan and the U.S. can resolve problems and trust each other as allies.

Obuchi took over the LDP's no. 2 post last week from Ichiro Ozawa, who resigned to take responsiblity of the LDP defeat in the Tokyo gubernatorial election.

Obuchi Interviewed

OW1204215091 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1206 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Interview with Keizo Obuchi, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party, by Hatsuhisa Takashima; Obuchi is in unidentified location, Takashima is in NHK studios; from the "News 21" program—live]

[Text] [Takashima] There is public concern over prospects for territorial negotiations with the Soviet Union, particularly because Ozawa's resignation comes just before President Gorbachev's visit to Japan. A consistent party diplomatic policy is extremely important, is it not?

[Obuchi] As a matter of course, I regret the resignation of Secretary General Ozawa, who met President Gorbachev twice recently in Moscow and then visited the United States to report on the achievements of his Moscow visit. The LDP has a consistent diplomatic policy, however, which is based on various diplomatic activities.

For instance, former Secretary General Abe visited the Soviet Union in January 1990. I also visited there last September. With these activities, the LDP has been working hard to realize the return of the four northern islands because it is the sincere desire of the Japanese. In particular, Secretary General Ozawa flew to Moscow to explain Japan's position, even though he was very busy with election campaigns. I hope we will be able to accomplish our objectives.

As a diplomatic issue, the territories dispute should be eventually settled through a series of meetings between the prime minister and President Gorbachev. It is my personal hope that Prime Minister Kaifu's political leadership and persuasive power will effect the return of all four islands, as well as a Japanese-Soviet peace treaty. Under current circumstances, the party intends to extend its whole-hearted support for the prime minister's efforts.

[Takashima] The current Diet session will close within 30 days. How will the Diet deal with the issue of Japan's cooperation with UN peacekeeping operations [PKO]?

[Obuchi] You are talking about the so-called PKO issue, right? I met senior LDP members yesterday on the issue, and we concluded that the ongoing Diet session may be extended to discuss the issue if the opposition agrees. The war in the Gulf has ended, and UN peacekeeping forces will be dispatched to the region.

Taking the situation into account, Japan should contribute to the international community not only with money but also with manpower. The government has decided to contribute funds to UN forces, and the private sector is expected to participate in nonmilitary UN activities. The Diet held an extraordinary session last year to legalize Japan's participation in the PKO, but the PKO bill failed to pass the Diet. The LDP, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] reached an accord on the issue after the Diet session. Since I am liable for agreements signed by my predecessors, I would like to open three-party discussions as soon as possible.

[Takashima] Do you mean that discussions on political reform will be put off for the time being?

[Obuchi] I have seen some papers noting that, unlike Mr. Ozawa, I would adopt a negative position toward political reform. The is not true. There may be some stylistic differences between us—one may deal with the issue more directly than another—but I will pursue objectives set by my predecessor.

In particular, Prime Minister Kaifu has pledged that he will deal with the issue at the risk of his political career. I also took the initiative to open discussions on the issue when I served in the Takeshita administration. The LDP began to examine the issue when I asked the party to examine advisory reports prepared by the so-called wise men's council. This time, I will deal with the issue from a different position, but I think I still must bear responsibility for past activities when I was chief cabinet secretary. My current position is that I should do my best to finalize the party's political reform plan as soon as possible, through much consultation with Political Reform Council Chairman Hata, Mr. Ito, and Mr. Gotoda.

[Takashima] There is public speculation that the inauguration of Secretary General Obuchi may be in preparation for the return of former Prime Minister Takeshita.

[Obuchi] It appears that the public tends to oversimplify the situation in connecting Secretary General Obuchi with former Prime Minister Takeshita. I hope Mr. Takeshita will view the political scene from a broader point of view as an experienced former prime minister and will serve as a senior adviser to the party and fellow politicians. I do not think I was appointed secretary general to campaign for his political comeback. I will welcome his advice as senior adviser of the LDP. I know that he understands his political status well and that he is now devoted to fulfilling his current tasks through activities like recent visits to China and the United States.

[Takashima] I see. Thank you very much for joining us.

[Obuchi] Thank you.

Finance Minister Leaves for G-7 Talks

OW1304072591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto left for London on Saturday to attend a meeting of top finance officials of the

Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations and an inaugural meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

The G-7 meeting of finance ministers will be held Sunday to discuss possible assistance to the Soviet Union, East European nations, and Middle East countries, with financial aid to the Soviets at the top of the agenda, according to a government source.

The EBRD, created last year by 39 nations to help East European nations develop market economies and democratic governments, will have an opening session on Monday.

Hashimoto is expected to propose setting up a special fund, dubbed the Japan Fund, at the EBRD meeting, the source said.

He returns home Tuesday afternoon.

LDP's Kanemaru Leaves for Thailand

OW1504103991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0708 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Influential conservative politician and former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru left Tokyo on Monday for a three-day visit to Thailand.

Kanemaru, who heads the largest faction within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, will hold talks with thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun in Bangkok.

He will return to Japan on Friday, they said.

Kanemaru is the first high-level Japanese political figure to visit Thailand since the military coup d'etat in February which ousted elected Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

Campaigns for 2d Round Local Elections Begin

OW1404034891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0331 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Candidates for mayoral posts and municipal assembly seats on Sunday launched their campaigns in the second round of the nation's unified local elections.

Voting will take place on April 21.

Candidates registered at local election administration committees Sunday morning before hitting the streets in an attempt to woo voters.

Mayoral elections will be held in 125 cities of 38 prefectures, including Utsuomiya, Urawa, Kofu, Shizuoka, Takamatsu, Nagasaki.

Municipal assembly contests are being conducted in 385 cities nationwide, with some 11,398 vacant seats at stake.

Ballotting for ward offices in Tokyo will involve chairmanships of 15 wards and assembly seats for all 23 wards in the metropolitan area.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party won handily in the first round of prefectural assembly elections held nationwide on April 7.

MITI Releases FY '90 Export, Import Figures

OW1204131491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Japan's contract-based exports rose 7.0 percent in fiscal 1990 while imports surged 10.6 percent, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Friday.

Exports totaled 276,781 million dollars, and imports amounted to 208,011 million dollars, MITI said.

Exports to North America declined, while those bound for the European Community (EC) and Southeast Asia rose.

Imports increased from all the areas, MITI said.

Strong demand in overseas markets for Japanese cars, chemical products, optical instruments, and computers drove exports.

Imports were led by crude oil. Imported cars and electric machinery also were in strong demand in Japan.

In March, contract-based exports climbed 11.8 percent from a year earlier, while imports edged up 0.9 percent. March exports totaled 27,505 million dollars and imports hit 16,144 million dollars.

Exports to North America sagged in March, but those to the EC and Southeast Asia grew. Imports from North America, west Asia, and Africa dropped.

Exports of optical instruments, chemical products, steels, and audio instruments were brisk. Crude oil, petrochemical products, and metal product imports were robust in March.

North Korea

CPRF Cites Conditions for Resuming Talks

SK1304101091 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1226 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] The Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] held a news conference with domestic and foreign reporters in Pyongyang on 10 April to discuss our side's stand on North-South dialogue.

Placed with due respect on the front wall of the news conference room was a portrait of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people.

Attending the news conference were reporters of the press and publications institutions from Pyongyang, foreign reporters, and press-related functionaries of the embassies of various foreign countries.

An Pyong-su, vice chairman of the CPRF, spoke first at the news conference.

[Begin An Pyong-su recording] As many of you reporters may know, in his New Year's address the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward new, epochal proposals for national reunification which express the firm will and positive stand of our party and of the Government of the Republic toward national reunification.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Today, the first day of the New Year, all our fellow countrymen are full of firm resolve to make still greater headway on our path leading to national reconciliation and reunification, and are more convinced than ever that the day of national reunification will come.

As you all know, the epochal and positive stand of our party and government on reunification, as clarified by the great leader in his New Year's address, is well expressed in the following three points:

First, he has put forward a very flexible stand on the proposal for reunification by founding a confederal system; I will not reiterate its content. Thus, he has paved the way for achieving national consensus on ways to bring about national reunification the easy way.

Second, he has provided to all of our fellow countrymen a broad chance to participate in dialogue, regardless of the difference in thoughts and systems and transcending all such things as ruling and opposition parties, by proposing a political consultative conference for national reunification with the attendance of representatives of the political parties and public organizations, including the authorities in the North and South.

Third, he has opened the door wide for politicians in the North and South to meet with each other in dialogue for reunification, regardless of whether such dialogue is bilateral or unilateral, irrespective of ways and forms, and without any burdensome feeling.

The three points mentioned above are what count most. These can be said to be an expression of the sincere stand of our party and the Government of the Republic on dialogue and reunification.

About three months have passed since these proposals were put forward. Judging from the prevailing situation on the Korean peninsula, however, we have no reason to be optimistic about future dialogue and settlement of the reunification question.

Major elements that play negative roles in dialogue and settlement of the reunification questions can be classified as follows:

First, it is the team spirit joint military exercise that was put in motion toward the end of last February. I would not explain to you the nature of this military exercise as it has already been reported time after time and as our stand on it has been explained clearly. However, what we must know is that the team spirit joint military exercise was put in motion right after our proposal for adopting the nonaggression declaration was turned down.

To be sure, I think that the South Korean authorities' refusal to adopt the nonaggression declaration proves that the threat of southward invasion they talk about is a lie, and that there is practically no such thing as the threat of a southward invasion.

Now, an aggressive nuclear test war exercise simulating the North as the enemy was launched despite the absence of a threat of southward invasion. We see it as a war exercise launched with an aggressive intention, not as a war exercise defensive in nature.

That the South Korean authorities launched the Team Spirit joint military exercise again this year, despite our repeated proposals and demands and even at the risk of breaking down North-South high-level talks, has not only strained to the extreme the situation between North and South and the situation on the Korean peninsula, but it has also shown the antipeace, antidialogue stand of the South Korean authorities.

The second reason why we believe that the Team Spirit joint military exercise has a negative impact on the development of the present situation is that the South Korean authorities have become more earnest in their maneuver to get unilaterally admitted into the United Nations, particularly since the beginning of this year.

Driven by a desire to settle the issue of UN membership in the interest of national reunification at all costs, we have already proposed to the South Korean authorities sincere negotiations. Even at this moment, we want it.

Nonetheless, the South Korean authorities have been making public their intention to be unilaterally admitted into the United Nations at all costs before the end of the year.

They have been saying that they will submit necessary documents, including the application form, to the United Nations, and they have even suggested that they no longer find it necessary to discuss such issues as unilateral UN membership with the North.

We see the attitude adopted by the South Korean authorities as an undisguised expression of their antidialogue, antipeace stand. What is more, the South Korean authorities' insistence that the North and South enter the United Nations separately with two different seats, or that they would like to enter it unilaterally, in effect clearly shows in stark contrast the splittist stand of the South Korean authorities in view of the fact that the North and South have now agreed on using a single name, a single flag, and a single song at international sporting events, in particular in table tennis.

Third, what we consider to be a negative element in the present situation is the suppression of the patriotic force in South Korea which aspires for reunification, a suppression which has recently become more vicious.

As you all may know, such people as co-ed Yim Su-kyong, Father Mun Kyu-hyon, and Mr Yu Won-ho who have visited the northern half of our Republic still remain behind bars. Moreover, a large number of youth, students, and people involved in social activities, as well as Christian ministers, are being arrested and taken into custody one after another simply because they had contact with the North or because they had lauded the North. Among them are Yim Chong-sok and Song Kap-sok, former chairmen of the third and fourth generations of the National Council of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyo], and such eminent South Korean activists as Cho Song-u, Cho Yong-sul, and Minister Yi Hae-hak.

The South Korean authorities have arrested and imprisoned a large number of people even on the trumped-up charge of being involved in the so-called Independent National Unification Committee [Minjatong] incident, which they deliberately associated with us.

Of course, suppression of the reunification force is no doubt a wanton violation of the South Korean people's political freedom and rights.

The reason why we are now making an issue of this is because we believe that suppressing people who call for reunification and contact with the northern half of our Republic, and who praise the North, is clearly an expression of a policy hostile to us. It is also an expression of the South side's antipeace, antidialogue stand.

Because of such elements as those mentioned above, relations between the South and North are very tense at this moment, not to mention that they have become very rigid. It is not just South-North relations that are rigid, for even the internal situation of South Korea has now also become very rigid.

Ever since they declared a war on crime, the South Korean authorities have intensified full-scale and systematic suppression against democratic forces in South Korea. They are now running amok in their maneuver to destroy such progressive and democratic organizations as Chondaehyop, the National Democratic Alliance of Korea [Chonminnyon], and the National Council of Labor Unions [Chonnohyop], while ferreting out and arresting all core members of these organizations.

Toward this end, the police are being rushed to schools and even churches at any time they please. The troops are mobilized in suppression of people although it is peace time, and although South Korea is not under a state of emergency.

Arguing that the South Korean people's anticommunist consciousness and vigilance against the North has become weak as a result of the aspirations for national reunification which has surged ahead last year, the South Korean authorities deliberately foster a sense of confrontation between the people of the North and South.

However, this only further intensifies the conflict between democratic and fascist forces, between the unification and splittist forces in South Korea. It also deepens the political unrest in South Korea.

This is reality. Basing our reasoning on such reality, we have made an assessment of the South Korean authorities' stand on dialogue and reunification as follows:

First, the South Korean authorities have practically no intention of settling problems through dialogue, and we see no change at all in the position of the South Korean authorities who have pursued South-North confrontation and division in the past, and are still doing the same even at this moment.

In our view it is out of a deliberate and splittist calculation, and not out of ignorance, that they would even run the risk of breaking up the North-South talks or of worsening North-South relations, that the South Korean authorities would have launched the Team Spirit joint exercise or would have become earnest in their maneuver to get unilaterally admitted into the United Nations, or that they would have intensified suppression of the patriotic forces aspiring for reunification.

The incumbent South Korean authorities did not show even slight progress from their position of the seventies and eighties when they sought to maintain antagonism, confrontation, and division instead of seeking a position for reconciliation, unity, and reunification.

But they are rather talking about so-called reunification through absorption. This even gives the impression that they are returning to the past era of the fifties, when they talked about reunification through anticommunism and victory over communism.

Second, their main interest at present is to solidify their domestic system, and they are not interested in North-South dialogue.

Since the spirit for reunification was rapidly enhanced in South Korea last year, and they thus faced a crisis of the collapse of the anticommunist system which they took as a national policy, the South Korean authorities were very embarrassed.

They saw that they could not confront the North under these conditions, so they are advancing down the path of keeping their domestic affairs under control. Thus, they put the policy of keeping domestic affairs under control first, and dialogue second.

This was proven by the fact that since they declared a so-called war against crime, this year, in particular, they are waging a vicious repressive offensive against democratic forces and deliberately aggravating North-South relations.

Third, the South Korean authorities are afraid of dialogue between civilians and politicians, and persistently block such dialogue. They persistently block contact and dialogue between civilians and politicians.

Participation of the popular masses and political forces from different circles in resolving the reunification issue, which is related to the vital interest of the entire nation, is quite natural and significant.

Furthermore, just when dialogue between the authorities has fallen into the state of crisis, civilian-level dialogue for reunification is more urgent. We should not leave North-South relations severed [tanjol sangtae] without any dialogue.

In order to open such civilian-level dialogue this year, we have repeatedly proposed, in the name of various civilian organizations, including youth and student organizations as well as trade union organizations, that various public organizations in South Korea, including even government-patronized organizations, hold contact and dialogue.

However, the South Korean authorities even refused to convey the letter to these organizations. This is indeed an abnormal act. The South Korean authorities still maintain the National Security Law, which regards contact with the North as a crime, and constantly insists on the so-called unified channel of dialogue by claiming that only the authorities should hold dialogue.

We do not understand why the South Korean authorities are blocking the civilian-level dialogue after building thick barriers and being afraid of the South Korean people.

We must say that blocking civilian dialogue while bringing dialogue between the authorities to the verge of rupture is a lockout in every respect. We consider that before they talk about opening, they should first correct their policy of lockout toward the North and the Republic.

Such a negative position and attitude by the South Korean authorities cause worry over the prospect of dialogue and reunification.

In order to push for North-South dialogue in a substantive and realistic manner, we would like to clarify our side's position as follows:

First, dialogue between the authorities of the North and the South must go parallel with civilian-level dialogue for reunification.

Of course, we attach great importance to dialogue between the authorities, and no lesser importance is attached to civilian-level dialogue. Thus, we feel that the way must be paved for civilian-level dialogue toward reunification.

From this stand, we hold that the ban on civilian-level dialogue toward reunification must be quickly and unconditionally lifted, and elementary conditions and circumstances must be ensured for having civilian-level talks as well as dialogue between the authorities.

We will never recognize the unified channel of the South Korean authorities for dialogue. We will actively support the zeal for reunification of all political parties and of people from all walks of life in South Korea, and we will support their will for dialogue.

Second, our position is that exchanges and cooperation between the North and South in the nonpolitical field must be parallel with those in the political field.

We have already clarified that removing the military confrontation between the North and South is a top priority issue for creating trust between the two sides. However, during the last North-South high-level talks, we also clarified that we are ready to resolve military questions in parallel with the issue of exchange, taking the South Korean side's argument into consideration.

We give priority to political cooperation and exchange out of the regulative role of politics, but we are ready to solve the matter in parallel with nonpolitical cooperation and exchange, taking the South Korean side's argument into consideration.

But one must not evade discussing matters by contending that this can be done and that cannot. Moreover, since we believe that exchange which is not regulated by politics and which has no direction will only be used easily for confrontation and division between the North and South, we cannot reconcile ourselves to the attempt to shelve political exchange and cooperation indefinitely, insisting only on nonpolitical exchange.

Out of this stand, we make it clear that we will promote nonpolitical cooperation and exchange in keeping with the progress of political cooperation and exchange in the future.

We consider this a just method for pushing for cooperation and exchange between the North and South which is truly in the interest of reunification instead of division.

Third, a political consultative conference for national reunification, in which the authorities and representatives of political parties and organizations in the North and South would participate, should be convened in order to reach a national agreement on the method of national reunification.

National agreement on the method for national reunification is very important and is an urgent issue for resolving the issue of national reunification.

If an agreement is reached on the comprehensive direction and way of solving the reunification question, all the side issues related to the realization of peace and peaceful reunification of the country will be smoothly settled.

We feel that this important matter should be discussed at a political consultative conference for national reunification which may reflect the will of the whole nation. If it is impossible to have such a conference right now, political parties and organizations should contact each other and actively promote dialogue.

Fourth, there should be change in the South Korean authorities' antidialogue, antireunification stand if the North-South high-level talks are to be resumed immediately.

In fact, the issue on resumption of the North-South high-level talks has become a matter of interest of home and abroad. The Team Spirit '91 joint military exercise, which worked as an occasion for driving the high-level talks into a crisis of rupture, is continuing even now.

However, even if this exercise ends now, this does not mean that the source creating the danger of war and driving dialogue into a rupture has been removed.

There is no change in the antipeace, antireunification position of the South Korean authorities who staged the Team Spirit joint military exercise together with the U.S. troops.

The prospect of high-level talks with the South Korean authorities is very gloomy as long as they continue to seek antagonism, confrontation, and division. Even if talks open, substantive progress can hardly be expected.

Therefore, the people in the North and South say that even if high-level talks are held similiar to what is being held now, resolution of any problem can hardly be expected and such talks are worse than none.

Ridiculing the people's desire for reunification by including the issue of dialogue is something which can be done only by the South Korean authorities. We have no such intention at all from the outset. If the South Korean authorities are interested in high-level talks, they must first of all change their fundamental stance and attitude toward the talks.

As a token of the change in attitude, affirmative steps should be taken as regards:

1. The question of adopting a nonaggression declaration;
2. The question of the two sides continuing discussion, at least until they have agreed on the matter of UN membership;
3. The question of releasing the arrested visitors to the North including female student Yim Su-kyong, Father Mun Kyu-hyon, and Mr Yu Won-ho, as well as activists for reunification including students Im Chong-sok and Song Kap-sok;
4. The question of opening the road of civilian-level dialogue for reunification, of abolishing the antireunification National Security Law, and of allowing activities for the formation of the South side's promotion headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification [Pomminnyon].

The South Korean authorities must bear the responsibility for having driven the high-level talks to the verge of rupture and must pay a due price for its consequences.

We will watch with patience what sincerity the South Korean authorities show toward the aforementioned matters.

Last, we would like to point out that we cannot but be skeptical about the credibility of the South Korean authorities, our dialogue partner. At present, the people's distrust in politics and in the authorities—the chief executive in particular—has reached its culmination in South Korea.

According to the result of a survey recently made public by TONG-A ILBO, a South Korean paper, those who agreed that the ruling party is properly carrying out its work total only 12.5 percent; those who asserted that it is not properly playing its role total 74.2 percent; those who think that the highest person in authority is playing his role properly total 28.1 percent; and those who think that he is not playing his role properly total 55.6 percent. This is what was recently made public. Of all respondents, 87.8 percent answered that political unrest is serious.

The authorities are distrusted by the people, the political circles in South Korea are enveloped by serious political unrest, and internal discord within the ruling party has been further aggravated in the wake of the competition for power. Taking all this into consideration, we must say that the future of the ruling forces in South Korea is very uncertain. Furthermore, the term of office of the incumbent regime is shortly coming to an end.

If the South Korean chief executive really wants to do something for national reunification during the rest of his tenure, he must not hesitate to take dramatic steps conducive to unity and reunification, turning back to the national stand before it is too late.

Our stand toward North-South high-level talks is clear. We feel that the North-South high-level talks should be resumed as early as possible, and they should be fruitful talks as regards all circumstances.

Talks which were held in such a manner as to rupture or resume them according to one's own necessity, thus attempting to use the talks for one's own political purpose, are very harmful to reunification and will only disappoint the people.

We will continue to make sincere efforts to have a substantial dialogue for reunification with the South Korean authorities, to induce them to change their attitude, and at the same time to strive to realize multifaceted civilian-level dialogue for reunification.

I now conclude my statement. [end recording]

CPRF Views South's 'Outburst' Against Reactor

SK1504002091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1115 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] issued a statement today denouncing the outburst let out by the South Korean "defence minister" on April 12 threatening to attack the "atomic reactor facilities" of the North.

The statement reads in full:

Peace on the Korean peninsula is now facing a grave challenge.

The South Korean "defense minister" made very ill-boding utterances before South Korean newspaper editors on April 12 threatening to "throw commandoes into the North and surprise and destroy the 'atomic reactor facilities' there".

These bellicose words of the South Korean "defense minister" have given rise to fierce anger and deep apprehensions among all the compatriots in the North, the South and overseas and the peaceloving people the world over.

All the opposition parties and people of various strata of South Korea are strongly demanding an immediate dismissal of the "defense minister," branding them as a grave bellicose outburst totally negating North-South dialogue and leading the situation of our country to a very dangerous brink of war.

The declaration of the South Korean military boss to surprise the "atomic reactor facilities" of the North is an intolerable challenge to the entire compatriots who have turned out in a nation-wide struggle to achieve a peaceful reunification in the '90s without fail, desiring peace.

Regarding the outburst of the South Korean military boss as a never-to-be-condoned anti-national criminal act to wreck peace and bring dark clouds of war to our country, break up dialogue and block the way of peaceful reunification, the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland pungently denounces it in the name of the entire Korean people.

His utterances threatening to attack our "atomic reactor facilities" are a most blatant declaration on giving up dialogue and negating peaceful reunification.

It is clear to everyone that peaceful reunification cannot be achieved in our country without dialogue.

We cannot but take the outburst of the South Korean "defense minister" seriously because it is virtually a declaration of war against us.

The South Korean authorities are now setting afloat the rumor that the utterances of the "defense minister" were a "slip of the tongue". But they were not a slip of the tongue or the will of an individual or a mere threat to us. The South Korean authorities are now trying to save the situation, saying that his remarks were "cancelled" and they were "a slip of the tongue." But this cannot conceal their scheme of a surprise attack on us which has already been brought into the open. The No Tae-u group has not only decided to make a surprise attack on our "atomic reactor facilities" but also worked out even a concrete operational plan to carry it into practice.

The South Korean military boss was so fascinated by the results of the Gulf war as to openly reveal it.

Through his utterances the No group stripped itself naked as an anti-national group of criminals who seek only "prevailing-over-communism reunification" by force of arms, not minding the destruction of the nation.

Now it has become all the clearer why the South Korean authorities have staged the large-scale "Team Spirit" joint military exercises with the U.S. for this year again in defiance of our repeated proposals and demand and persistently objected to our consistent proposal to adopt a North-South nonaggression declaration.

It has also been dragged into the light of day that their recent proposal for the resumption of the North-South high-level talks and North-South Red Cross talks even before the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises came to a close was nothing but a smokescreen for concealing their belligerent nature.

Their anti-national, dangerous scheme to provoke a war which may push the situation in our country to an irretrievable phase can by no means be a plan of them alone.

Their plan to make a surprise attack on our atomic reactor facilities is immediately a plan of the United States and it is based on its script.

Obsessed with megalomania after the Gulf war, the United States has the mistaken notion that its "policy of strength" will work in Korea, too, and intends to unleash an all-out war of aggression against our republic, taking issue with non-existent nuclear facilities of ours. The U.S. imperialists have already mapped out a war scenario in anticipation of a war in Korea and, these days, they are whipping up a war atmosphere with the unusually vociferous talk that the Korean peninsula is the most dangerous region where a war may break out following the Gulf war.

In case the South Korean authorities commit a rash act at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, it would inevitably lead to an allout war, and then, our nation will suffer irretrievable, catastraphic disasters and peace in Asia and the rest of the world be jeopardized.

Do the South Korean authorities really intend to trample upon the desire of the 70 million people for peace and peaceful reunification and plunge our nation again into the holocaust of a war forced by the U.S. imperialists.

Surely we who are struggling for peace and peaceful reunification of the country can never allow such a situation to be created.

Neither dialogue nor peace and reunification are possible in Korea as long as there remain in South Korea the warmaniacs trying to impose irrevocable disasters and scourge upon the whole nation and wreck peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

For peace and security of our country and, furthermore, in Asia and the world, the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group must stop their criminal war provocation moves at once and the South Korean bellicose elements running wild with the backing of the U.S. imperialists must be removed immediately.

The South Korean people of all walks of life must look straight at the dangerous situation prevailing in the country and fight more resolutely to prevent a new war, safeguard peace and promote the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we earnestly call on the governments, political parties, social organizations and figures of various social strata of all countries who want a peaceful reunification of Korea and peace of mankind to pay due attention to the danger of another war in Korea created by the United States and the South Korean authorities, bitterly denounce them and continue expressing full support to and solidarity with the righteous struggle of our people and all the fellow countrymen for peace and peaceful reunification.

Supreme People's Assembly Session Closes 13 Apr

SK1304104291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0800 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The Second Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK closed on 13 April, successfully concluding its work.

The session separately adopted with unanimous approval of all the deputies on the results of the fulfillment of the state budget of the DPRK for 1990, a decision of the SPA of the DPRK, and the state budget for 1991 of the DPRK, a law of the SPA of the DPRK.

The session announced the results of elections at the second day's sitting, the members of the Central People's Committee, the secretary of the Standing Committee of the SPA, and a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA.

According to it, Deputies Hong Si-hak and Cho Se-ung were recalled from the Central People's Committee and deputies Hyon Chol-kyu and Paek Pom-su were elected as members of the Central People's Committee. Deputy Kim Kyong-pong, secretary of the Standing Committee of the SPA, was replaced by Deputy Yi Mong-ho. Deputy U Chong-hak was elected at the session as member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA.

At the session Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the SPA, gave a closing address.

[Begin recording] Comrade deputies:

The Second Session of the Ninth SPA, which was held amidst the interest of all the people of the nation, has ended its work after successfully discussing the agendas under the active participation of the comrade deputies.

In this SPA, results of the execution of the state budget for last year were settled and deliberations and decisions on this year's state budget were carried out.

At the session, laws that were deliberated and decided upon at the Standing Committee of the SPA during First and Second Sessions of the Ninth SPA were recognized.

As accurately summarized in this session, under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, and with the firm faith of the justness of the cause of chuche-type socialism and its victory, our people vigorously struggled last year, thus achieving great advances in the great march movement of socialist construction. Therefore, the stage budget was executed successfully during the first year of the nineties. [applause]

This year's state budget, which was wholly supported and approved by the comrade deputies, was accurately compiled into a realistic and mobilized budget, so that it can smoothly guarantee the necessary finances in realizing the core task of the socialist construction which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song presented in his New Year address and in realizing the policy of our party's great socialist construction.

The state budget for 1991 firmly guarantees financially our people who are continuously adhering to our people's revolutionary spirit so that all political and economic tasks that are put before our revolution this year can be fulfilled smoothly. Therefore, this is an independent and solid budget which makes it possible to further strengthen the socialist might of our style and to highly display its superiority. The state budget for 1991 is also a true people's budget which diverts the state's financial resources unsparingly for the people's welfare. [applause]

The whole process of this SPA clearly showed the superiority and vitality of our country's socialist system which is being consolidated and developed with each passing day without any wavering amidst the rapid changes in history under the wise leadership of the Worker's Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic, which is led by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song. This also displayed our people's rock-firm faith and indomitable will which is to vigorously move forward overfulfilled with faith and optimism to achieve a complete victory in socialism by the wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses, and to achieve ahead of schedule the reunification of the fatherland. [applause]

By holding discussions and deciding upon important issues that are put forth in consolidating and developing this year's scientific and dynamic state budget and state's social system, which most accurately reflects the realistic demand of the continuously maturing socialist economic development of our country which is based on the firm basis of the popular masses' creativity and a self-reliant national spirit, I am of the firm conviction that a new opportunity will be opened in accelerating the great socialist march movement under the party's leadership and in our people's struggle to achieve the reunification of the fatherland. I declare the closing of the Second Session of the Ninth SPA. [applause] [end recording]

Events Marking Kim Il-song's Birthday Viewed

SK1204111191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—The holiday of April is being greeted in Korea significantly.

April 15 is the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il- song.

On this occasion working people, soldiers of the Korean People's Army, school youth and children visit Mangyongdae where President Kim Il-song was born.

Nowadays more than 10,000 heople visit Mangyongdae every day.

Streets have been garbed in festive attire on the eve of April 15.

Grand functions for the occasion are being held with splendor in all parts of the country.

A ten-day Korean film show and a national photo exhibition for celebrating April 15 were opened in Pyongyang on April 9.

Feature films and documentary films on the revolutionary activities and leadership feats of President Kim Il-song are showing at cinema and cultural houses.

The Grand People's Study House where the national photo exhibition is open draws many visitors every day.

The traditional "Mangyongdae Prize" sports games are going on at Pyongyang and local stadiums and gymnasiums.

On the evening of April 15, Pyongyang working people will have a grand dancing party at Kim Il-song Square and rowing aboard festooned boats on the river Taedong.

The 9th April Spring Friendship Art Festival is being grandly held in Pyongyang.

Participating in it are a great number of artistes from overseas countries and overseas Korean artistes as well as home artistes.

Soviet Embassy Gathering Held

SK1204054591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—An evening was arranged at the Soviet Embassy here Thursday on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Invited there were O Mun-han, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet friendship society, and other officials concerned.

Present were Soviet Ambassador to Korea Aleksandr Kapto, his embassy officials and the members of the April 15 congratulatory group of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society headed by Vasiliy Ryabov, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Society staying in our country.

The participants looked round the photos showing the achievements made by the Korean people in the political, economic and cultural fields of the socialist construction under the wise guidance of President Kim Il-song.

They appreciated the Korean documentary film "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Pays a Goodwill Visit to the Soviet Union."

An art performance was given by students of Pyongyang music and dance university at the evening.

The participants talked with each other in a friendly atmosphere.

Kim Il-song Plants Trees

SK1304155491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song, accompanied by senior party and state officials, today planted trees together with youth and children in Pyongyang on the occasion of the day of tree planting.

Present on the occasion were Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK]; O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and minister of People's Armed Forces; members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK Yon Hyong-muk, Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, Kim Yongnam, Choe Kwang, Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho, Kang Song-san and So Yun-sok; alternate members of the Political Bureau Hyong Mu-kwang, Choe Tae-pok, Cho Yong-nim, Hong Song-nam, Kim Chol-man, Kim Poksin, Kang Hui-won and Hong Si-hak; secretaries of the

C.C., the WPK Kim Chong-in, Pak Nam-ki, So Kwan-hui, Yun Ki-pok, Kim Yong-sun and Hwang Chang-yop; vice-premiers of the Administration Council Kim Yun-hyok, Kim Hwan, Kim Tal-hyon and Chang Chol and officials concerned.

Chairman Han Tok-su and Vice-Chairmen Chon Yon-sik and Ho Chong-man of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan were also present.

President Kim Il-song together with youth and children planted pink-flower acacia, pine-nut, aromatic and other trees in the park of the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace.

He praised school youth and children, saying that it is very good for them to vigorously wage a tree-planting movement with high sense of patriotism.

He taught that tree planting is a long-range work to provide the people with a happy life and hand down to the posterity rich forest resources and beautiful mountains and rivers.

He had a picture taken with the youth and children who participated in the tree planting.

Kim Il-song at Cubans' Banquet

SK1404094891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0844 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—Juan Jose Leon Vega, ambassador e.p. of the Republic of Cuba to the DPRK, Saturday arranged a banquet at his embassy on the 79th birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

President Kim Il-song was invited to the banquet.

Present at the banquet on invitation were Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK and vice-president; Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister; Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army; Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C., WPK; and officials concerned.

On the occasion, the ambassador presented a floral basket and congratulatory message to President Kim Il-song on his 79th birthday, wished him good health and a long life and conveyed him gifts in the name of the Cuban party and Government and Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz.

The banquet passed in an amicable atmosphere overflowing with friendship.

President Kim Il-song had a photograph taken with embassy staff members.

Kim Il-song Arranges Banquet

SK1504091191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0541 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today arranged a banquet at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in honor of the congratulatory groups and delegations of overseas Koreans.

President Kim Il-song appeared in the banquet hall amid the warm welcome of the participants.

Vice-President Pak Song-chol, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea Yun Ki-pok, vice-premiers Kim Tal-hyon and Chang Chol and officials concerned were on hand.

Present at the banquet were the congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan for celebrating the 15th of April led by Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon); the April 15 congratulatory group of Koreans in the United States led by Sonu Hak-Won, central permanent chairman of the one Korea movement and advisor to the North American headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon); the April 15 congratulatory group of Koreans in China headed by Choe Yong-hui, first vice-chairman of the headquarters of Koreans in China of Pomminnyon; the April 15 congratulatory group of Koreans in the Soviet Union led by Chon Kum-chol, vice-chairman of the committee for the promotion of national reunification in the Soviet Union and central member of the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon; the April 15 congratulatory group of Koreans in Canada headed by Chon Chung-nim, chairman of the headquarters in Canada of Pomminnyon; Choe Hong-hui, president of the International Federation of Taekwon-do and [word indistinct] April 15 congratulatory delegate; the delegation of traders and manufacturers affiliated with Chongnyon for expressing thanks on the fifth anniversary of the beginning of joint venture with Vice-Chairman of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee Chon Yon-sik as its head and Vice-Chairman Ho Chong-man as its advisor; the delegation of officials of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan under Chongnyon headed by its Director General Choe Il-su; An Sang-taek, president of the Tonghae Trading Company, Ltd. under Chongnyon, and his companion; Kim In-kwon, general director of the Pudong Company, and his companion; and members of Chongnyon delegations and compatriots from abroad.

Vice-President Pak Song-chol made a speech.

He said our country is overflowing with a festive atmosphere greeting the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Recalling that our people who had lived with deep sighs and sorrow, not knowing joy and laughter in the past days, having [words indistinct] the country, are enjoying boundless happiness and pride in the independent country of the people, a true paradise for them which, was founded by our leader, he stressed:

The dignity of our Korean nation and the high international authority of our country traces its historical origin to the birth of the great leader and it is firmly guaranteed as we have our leader in his person.

The revolutionary cause achieved by the great leader with his tireless efforts and devotion is being brilliantly carried forward and developed by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, he said.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, he said, has led the revolution and construction with rare wisdom and outstanding leadership and guided our people to steadfastly defend and safeguard the revolutionary cause of chuche and advance along a straight path of socialism of our own style.

Overseas Koreans are firmly building up the "Pomminnyon" organisations in keeping with the ardent desire for reunification which is growing to the highest tide ever, upholding the lines and policies of national reunification advanced by the great leader and conducting more vigorous, righteous activities for peace and reunification of the country, closely rallied around them, he stressed.

Our party and the Government of the Republic highly estimate their just struggle for national reunification as a token of patriotism and fully support their Pan-National Patriotic Movement for Reunification, Pak Song-chol stressed.

Chairman Han Tok-su spoke next.

In greeting the April holiday with the respected leader, our hearts are leaping with boundless national pride and honor, he said.

Now the world is complex, but our country is vigorously advancing, leading the time under the uplifted banner of socialism of chuche.

It is thanks to the respected leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il that our country is praised by the world people as a true model of socialism and as an ideal country of mankind.

The common idea of overseas compatriots, wherever they may live is the firm faith that our leader is the greatest and so our party and our country.

As there is the respected leader and the dear leader carries forward the cause of the respected leader, the future of our country is bright and the victory of overseas Koreans movement is certain.

The entire overseas Koreans, wherever they may live, will powerfully struggle to achieve national reunification in the 1990s at any cost as intended by the great leader, singleheartedly united around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The banquet proceeded in a warm atmosphere overflowing with compatriotic sentiments.

Pak Song-chol Addresses Banquet

SK1504130691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Address by Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and vice president of the DPRK, at a banquet arranged by DPRK President Kim Il-song for congratulatory groups and delegations of overseas compatriots at Kumsusan Assembly Hall on 14 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Comrades and members of congratulatory groups of overseas compatriots:

At this momentous time, upholding the respected leader, the sun of our nation and benevolent father, I respectfully extend greatest honor and warmest greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who is marking his 79th birthday, together with warm feelings of loyalty from all the Korean people at home and abroad and from many comrades.

I, in the name of the Government of the Republic, warmly welcome you, members of the congratulatory groups of overseas compatriots from various areas who have rushed to Pyongyang, crossing oceans and continents, with earnest and warm greetings wishing the great leader good health and long life. I express warm compatriotic greetings to you.

This gathering is a significant one arranged by the respected leader for you, the members of the congratulatory groups of overseas compatriots.

The respected leader, who is before you, the members of the congratulatory groups of overseas compatriots extending your greetings wishing him good health and long life, arranged this banquet of love, and extended benevolence to you by joining you. This is the greatest honor and happiness given to all overseas compatriots and to the entire state.

Together with feelings of loyalty from members of the congratulatory groups of overseas compatriots and all comrades present here, I extend warmest thanks to the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song who arranged this honorable gathering.

Marking the great leader's birthday, our fatherland is now seething with a festive atmosphere and the people are filled with endless joy and deep emotion.

Our people, who lived in the past amid lamentation and sorrow without joy or laughter at the loss of our nation, today are enjoying boundless happiness and a valuable life in the independent nation of the people, a genuine paradise of the people built by our leader. Together with artists from scores of nations and a great number of friends, we are commemorating the birthday of the fatherly leader as a common festival of mankind by staging the April spring festival.

From this marvelous reality, we again confirm the truth that the greatness of the nation and people totally depends on the greatness of the leader, not on the size of a nation or population.

The dignity which the Korean people have today and the lofty international status of our fatherland have their historical origin in the birth of the great leader. They are firmly guaranteed because we are upholding the respected Comrade Kim Il-song as the leader.

The great leader, who was born with the mission to rescue the fatherland and the suffering people, embarked early on the road of revolution, dedicated his whole life to the revolutionary cause of the fatherland and the people over a long period from the day he pioneered the marvelous chuche cause till today, suffering all kinds of ordeals and pains.

Indeed, because of the existence of the great leader, we have the socialist fatherland of chuche, for which the people of the world cannot repress admiration. Also, our people enjoy an independent and creative life, our people have a promising and bright future, and our people have the great pride and dignity that our nation is the best in the world. The revolutionary cause pioneered and achieved by the great leader today is being brilliantly inherited and developed by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The dear comrade leader, who possesses the highest loyalty to the great leader, by leading the revolution and construction through his extraordinary wisdom and excellent leadership ability, has led our people to thoroughly safeguard and defend the revolutionary cause of chuche and to advance along the road of socialism of our own style with firm self-confidence. Our people who have been firmly united as one with firm faith and a sense of obligation of loyalty are vigorously carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—without faltering, no matter how complicated the situation surrounding us may be. Thus, our people are vigorously accelerating the nationwide march to expedite reunification in the nineties.

In upholding the line and policy of national reunification given by the great leader, the overseas compatriots who have consistently struggled for national reunification in foreign countries along with the people in the fatherland have firmly organized and built organizations of the Overseas Headquarters of the National Alliance for Reunification [Pominnyon], keeping in step with the reunification fever which has unprecentedly increased in recent years. They are more vigorously waging sacred activities for peace and the reunification of the country while firmly uniting around these Pominnyon organizations.

Our party and the Government of the Republic highly value the just struggle of overseas compatriots for national reunification as a manifestation of their patriotic spirit. They fully support and praise their patriotic movement for national reunification.

In conclusion, while firmly believing that our overseas compatriots will expedite the day of national reunification, the long-cherished desire of the nation, by vigorously waging, in the future, too, the movement for reunification hand in hand with the people in the fatherland, I propose a toast to the complete victory of socialism in the northern half of the Republic, to the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, to the eternal happiness of our descendants, to the consummation of the chuche cause, to the long life and good health of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the lodestar of reunification and the sun of the nation, and of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and to the health of the leaders and members of the congratulatory groups of the overseas compatriots who have come from various regions of the world.

Kim Meets USSR, Japanese Koreans

SK1504073191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0622 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 15 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song Sunday received overseas Koreans delegations and individual compatriots on a visit to homeland.

Present on the occasion were a delegation of traders and manufacturers under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) visiting the homeland to express thanks on the fifth anniversary of the beginning of joint venture with vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of Chongnyon Chon Yon-sik as its head and Vice-Chairman Ho Chong-man as advisor; a delegation of Chongnyon officials headed by Hong In-hum; a delegation of officials of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan under Chongnyon headed by its Director General Choe Il-su; a delegation of branch chairmen of Chongnyon headed by Ha Tae-hong; a delegation of the Committee for the Promotion of Korean Reunification in the Soviet Union headed by its General Secretary Cho Yun-hae; An Sang-taek, president of the Tonghae Trading Company, Ltd. under Chongryon, and his companion; and Kim In-kwon, general director of the Pudong Company under Chongnyon, and his companion.

Yun Ki-pok and other officials concerned were on hand.

The members of the delegations and compatriots presented congratulatory greetings to President Kim Il-song on his 79th birthday and wished him good health and long life.

President Kim Il-song gladly received them and had a cordial conversation with them in an atmosphere overflowing with compatriotic feelings.

USSR Leadership Sends Greetings

SK1404093191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0852 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received congratulations on his birthday from Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and the Soviet leadership.

Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Semenovich Kapto to the DPRK Friday conveyed the congratulations to President Kim Il-song to an official concerned.

He said he was authorized to convey the heartfelt congratulations and best wishes of President Gorbachev and the entire Soviet leadership to President Kim Il-song on his birthday.

PRC Leadership Sends Greetings

SK1504000591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1141 GMT 14 April 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a floral basket and congratulatory message from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Chinese leaders, on his birthday.

Zheng Yi, ambassador e.p. of the People's Republic of China to the DPRK, Saturday conveyed the floral basket and congratulations to an official concerned.

The ambassador said that he was authorized to convey the floral basket of wishes for longevity of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the felicitations and best wishes of Chinese leaders including Comrades Jiang Zemin, Deng Xiaoping, Yang Shangkun and Li Peng to President Kim Il-song, on his birthday, the most auspicious national holiday of the Korean people.

SKNDF Sends Congratulations

SK1504103891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 15 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received a congratulatory message from the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) on April 15 on the occasion of his birthday.

The message notes that Comrade Kim Il-song founded the man-centred, people-first chuche idea in the vehement practice of the revolutionary struggle and performed epochal feats of building a socialist power, independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in national defence, in the northern half of Korea.

The message says that it is the greatest feat of Comrade Kim Il-song that the Workers' Party of Korea leading the chuche cause pioneered on Mt. Paektu to a high stage of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea has most satisfactorily solved the question of the successor to its cause and has grown in strength and developed as a dignified party and an invincible party that the people trust and follow as their heart and brain and mother.

It continues:

The socialism of chuche in the North where all the people, true masters of society, equally lead an independent political life and an affluent and sound material and cultural life and the leader, the party and the masses are united in one mind as a single socio-political organism is demonstrating its advantages and inexhaustible vitality to the world day by day.

The people in the South have proudly brought about a new turn in the anti-U.S., anti-dictatorship struggle and the reunification movement, not yielding to the brutal bayonet-suppression by the colonial fascist rule, cherishing in their hearts the august name of the leader as the symbol of struggle and victory.

Hanminjon will in the future, too, press ahead with the anti-U.S., anti-dictatorship struggle, invigorating the activities to awaken and organise the people, lifting higher the banner of the chuche idea.

In the message the Central Committee of Hanminjon wishes Comrade Kim Il-song good health and long life.

South Korea

Reportage on Upcoming Gorbachev Visit Continues

Gorbachev's Itinerary Settled

SK1504090291 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 15 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] The ROK and the Soviet Union have agreed that the summit talks of the two countries will be held for one hour, beginning at 1900 on 19 April. The talks will be a tete-a-tete at the Hotel Shilla in Cheju Island after Soviet President Gorbachev arrives in the ROK on that day.

A government official on 15 April said: President Gorbachev arrives in Cheju Island around 1830 and will hold talks with President No Tae-u for about 30 minutes en route to the Hotel Shilla.

President No Tae-u, in the summit talks, is expected to stress to President Gorbachev that security on the Korean peninsula is essential to peace in Northeast Asia and that Soviet cooperation for this is important. President No is expected to request that President Gorbachev help the resumption of North-South dialogue and the realization of North-South summit talks. President No is also expected to ask President Gorbachev to refrain from selling arms to North Korea and to hold prior consultation with the ROK on that topic, noting that in view of the geographical features of the Korean peninsula, arms such as Scud missiles can become a deadly threat to the ROK since Seoul falls within their range.

The ROK is asking that the Soviet side officially support our plan to enter the United Nations first, at the news conference on the day of the summit talks.

Following the news conference, the leaders of the two countries are expected to participate in an hour-long dinner with the participation of some 100 figures from both sides. President Gorbachev and his entourage are expected to leave around 2300.

Further on Gorbachev Itinerary

SK1504123991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1123 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is to arrive at Cheju Island at around 7 P.M. Friday (KST) for talks with South Korean President No Tae-u, the presidential office of Chongwadae announced Monday afternoon.

During the summit, No and Gorbachev will talk about ways to settle peace on the Korean peninsula, promote inter-Korean dialogue and unification, encourage Pyongyang to sign the nuclear safeguards agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency and beef up mutual exchanges and cooperations between the two countries, Presidential spokesman Yi Su-chong said.

"The two leaders will exchange views on the international situation in Northeast Asia and discuss ways to secure peace and stability in the region as well. Matters concerning regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific will also be discussed," the spokesman said.

"Other pending issues between the two countries will be discussed at foreign and economic ministerers meetings," he said.

Yi said that No and Gorbachev would have a tete-a-tete for about an hour and then an expanded summit meeting to be attended by their key aides before having dinner. The two leaders will meet again after the dinner to discuss matters of mutual concern further, he added.

The presidential spokesman said that two local hotels, one in Soguipo, south of the island, and the other in Cheju, are now being considered as possible venue for the summit meeting. Final choice is yet to be made between the two, he said. Cheju Island is off the southern coast of the country and is best known as a haven for honeymooners.

The summit will be accompanied by two separate ministerial meetings—between Foreign Ministers Yi Sang-ok and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, and between Trade-Industry Minister Yi Pong-so and Foreign Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev.

No and Gorbachev will explain the results of their talks in their press remarks scheduled right after the meeting.

Gorbachev, leading a 12-member official entourage, comes to the island on his way back from Japan for his third meeting with No. The two leaders first met in San Francisco on June 4 last year and then in Moscow in mid December. Gorbachev will be the first top Soviet leader to set foot on the Korean soil.

The Soviet leader's official entourage will also include Anatoliy Chernyayev, assistant to the president: Vladimir Ignatenko, presidential spokesman: Igor Rogachev, deputy foreign minister: V. Gusenkov, advisor to the president: Karen Brutents, advisor to the president: A. Milyukov, director of the Social and Economic Analysis Department at the Presidential Office: V. Shevchenko, chief of protocol at the Presidential Office: V. Chernyshev, chief of the State Protocol Directorate at the Foreign Ministry: Oleg Sokolov, ambassador to Korea: and Sergey Razov, chief of the Indochinese and Far Eastern countries department at Foreign Ministry.

Members of the Korean-side entourage, besides the foreign and trade-industry ministers, are Kim Chin-hyon, science and technology minister: Chong Hae-chang, chief presidential secretary: Yi Hyon- u, chief of presidential security service: Kong No-myong, ambassador to the Soviet Union: Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs: Kim Chong-hui, presidential assistant for foreign and national security affairs: Yi Su-chong, senior presidential spokesman: Yi Pyong-ki, senior presidential secretary for protocol affairs: Yun Ok-yong, head of fisheries administration: and Kwon Yong-min, director of the European Affairs Bureau at the Foreign Ministry.

No To Address DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK1504011391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0051 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u will ask Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to stop supplying North Korea with plutonium and other nuclear materials when they meet Friday on Cheju Island, South Korean officials said Monday.

No will ask Gorbachev to suspend the shipments until North Korea signs the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] safeguards agreement and opens its nuclear facilities to international inspection, they said.

"President No will point out that North Korea's development of nuclear weapons will be a major hindrance to the peace and security of Northeast Asia that the Soviet Union is pursuing. He will also stress joint countermeasures against North Korea's development of nuclear arms for the steady development of Seoul-Moscow ties," one of the officials said.

The Soviet Union had been providing North Korea with nuclear materials for industrial use, but the supply was causing concern because they could be diverted to military purposes under current circumstances as North Korea was not allowing international inspection, he said.

"President No will ask the Soviet Union not to supply nuclear materials to North Korea until the IAEA makes certain that such materials are used for peaceful purposes," the official said.

President Gorbachev will fly into Cheju, Korea's southernmost island, for a brief summit on his way home from Japan, becoming the first Soviet supreme leader to set foot in either the capitalist South or communist North.

South Korea and the Soviet Union settled issues pertaining to economic cooperation with Korea's promise of 3 billion U.S. dollars in aid shortly after they opened diplomatic relations on Sept. 30 last year.

The upcoming third No-Gorbachev summit will focus on such political issues as peace in Northeast Asia, South Korea's bid for U.N. membership, resumption of South-North Korean dialogue, and restructuring of international and regional order after the Gulf war, the official said.

No and Gorbachev met first in San Francisco on June 4 last year and then in Moscow in mid-December.

Other sources said No would ask Gorbachev to visit the North Korean capital of Pyongyang at the earliest possible date. Though North Korea and the Soviet Union are strong allies, no Soviet of Gorbachev's rank has ever visited Pyongyang. Long-ruling North Korean President Kim Il-song has invited the Soviet leader to visit Pyongyang several times since Gorbachev came to power in March 1985, but the invitation has yet to be answered.

The sources said Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev could sound out North Korea on a visit by Gorbachev when he goes to Pyongyang shortly after the Cheju talks.

Rogachev is likely to visit Beijing and Pyongyang to brief the two governments on the outcome of Gorbachev's visits to Japan and South Korea.

Soviets 'Expected' To Regret KAL

SK1504141291 Seoul YONHAP in English 1335 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to officially convey his government's regrets to South Korean Government over its role in the Korean war and the 1983 downing of a Korean Air [KAL] jetliner when he meets with President No Tae-u for a summit on April 19 on Cheju Island, a government official said Monday.

"Gorbachev, setting his foot on the world's last divided nation amid a global trend towards rapprochement and openness, is to express his regrets over the two incidents," said the official on condition of anonymity.

"Gorbachev's expression of regrets would imply his will to promote Korea-Soviet relationships and friendship between the peoples of the two countries. It will contribute to the development of the mutual ties," he said.

The foreign ministers of the two countries, who will accompany their state leaders to Cheju, will discuss in their official meeting matters concerning planned visits to the Soviet Union by the bereaved families of those killed in the downing of the KAL plane and establishment of a monument for the victims, he said.

The 007 KAL jetliner was shot down by a Soviet fighter over the island of Sakhalin in 1983, killing all the 269 people on board. The bereaved families applied for visits to Sakhalin on the eighth anniversary of the incident.

The Soviet Union, an ally of North Korea, has denied its involvement in the Korean war for 1950-53 until recently when Soviet news reports began admitting that some Soviet fighters were dispatched to North Korea during the war days.

PRC 'Well Aware' of South's UN Entry Resolve

SK1304065791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0637 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—Joining the United Nations this year is crucial for South Korea's relations with China, No Chae-won, chief of Seoul's trade representative office in Beijing, said Saturday.

"The most important task in our relations with China is our entry into the United Nations this year and our government is making best efforts to that end," said No, in Seoul for a meeting of senior diplomats assigned abroad.

The career diplomat has headed the office since it opened Jan. 30. China opened a trade office here April 9. The two countries do not have diplomatic relations and the trade offices have limited consular functions.

No said China was aware of Korea's resolve to join the world body this year and he expected it to behave as a responsible member of the security council.

"The Chinese Government is well aware of our government's determination to join the United Nations this year. Being in a responsible position as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, China will deal with the question of our membership in a way commensurate with its position," No said.

Hyon Hong-chu, head of South Korea's U.N. observer mission, recently said Seoul would apply for U.N. membership before the General Assembly opens in September.

Asked if it would veto a South Korean application, No said China would "make an appropriate decision, considering the status of the Korean peninsula and its future in the context of peace in Northeast Asia and the world as a whole."

"Yes," the former vice foreign minister said when asked if admission to the United Nations would lessen China's diplomatic burden.

From his observation of China over the last few months, No said, it was likely to follow a policy of separating politics from economics in its relations with South Korea.

"The two countries may sign a trade agreement, a customs agreement and an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation even before they set up formal ties if their interests come in accord," he said.

South Korea has normalized relations with most communist countries in Europe and Asia since 1988, and hopes to do so with China, but Beijing, a close ally of Pyongyang, has shown a reserved attitude so far.

Ministry Denies North, South To Meet in PRC

SK1304112591 Seoul YONHAP in English 1113 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Foreign Ministry on Saturday denied reports that South and North Korean officials will meet in Beijing next month to discuss U.N. membership.

Ministry officials, referring to a Beijing-datelined story in a Taiwanese newspaper Friday, said the report is not true.

Taiwan's LIEN HO PAO said that South and North Korea agreed to a secret meeting to negotiate their countries' U.N. entry around mid-May in Beijing and that China will also participate in the talks to explain its position on the issue.

South Korea announced April 8 that it will formally seek to join the U.N. this summer and urged North Korea to also seek a separate membership.

The U.N. membership issue has been one of the major stumbling blocks to inter-Korean dialogue. South Korea is demanding simultaneous but separate entry while North Korea is insisting on sharing a single seat.

North 'Relocating' Labor Camps to New Sites

SK1304100491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0945 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea has been secretly relocating its labor camps to less visible sites to escape criticism from international human rights organizations, a government source said Saturday.

One of the first camps to be moved was a detention camp near Onsung in the remote northern part of the country where some 27,000 political prisoners, who are officially called "ideological offenders," were reportedly kept to labor in coal mines, the source said.

Amnesty International, Asia Watch and other human rights organizations have been lashing out at North Korea, claiming it keeps 150,000 people in 12 major labor camps that are intentionally deleted on North Korean maps.

North Korea has been discreetly moving the prisoners out of these camps since latter half of last year into less known areas to veil foreigners' eyes, the source said.

Pyongyang mobilized military manpower last year to build a monument for its President Kim Il-song at what was previously the Onsung labor camp and held a mass ceremony there last April 4, according to the source.

Some 1,200 families have been moved into the area to form a new village there, the source said.

The Pyongyang government reportedly also closed another highly visible labor camp in the upper reaches of Tuman River and built a museum there instead as a disguise.

Political prisoners in North Korea are known to be mostly former high-level officials of Nodong (Workers') Party who were nudged out in power struggle and even includes ex-vice prime minister Pak Kum-chol and Kim Chang-pong, according to the source.

Besides the ideological offenders, some 70,000 "anti-revolutionaries" are allegedly kept at a detention camp for forced labor for committing such minor crimes as indirectly criticizing Kim il-song and his son, Chong-il, or listening to South Korean broadcasts.

DPRK Moves to Special Economic Zones Viewed

SK1504104791 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 10 Apr 91 p 9

[Article by reporter An Song-kyu from the "Today's North Korea" column]

[Text] North Korea has been moving toward establishing special economic zones in Unggi and Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, as a way out from its ever-worsening economic situation.

North Korea has been seriously considering establishing special economic zones due to its serious economic situation and efforts by its neighbor countries to promote an atmosphere leading in this direction, even though North Korea's moves have been below the surface. North Korean affairs experts predict that, considering the situation at home and abroad, North Korea may establish special economic zones earlier than expected.

Experts cite last November's visit to China by North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk as the strongest evidence for North Korea's efforts to probe ways to establish special economic zones.

When he was visiting China at that time to see whether China could extend economic assistance to North Korea, he went to the Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, Special Zone, the first such visit by a North Korean premier.

High-ranking North Korean officials frequently visited this special zone for some time after China established it. However, North Korea had not paid much attention to speak of to the special zone from 1985 to the time when the North Korean premier paid his sudden visit. This visit is interpreted as a change of North Korea's perception of special zones.

It has been officially explained that Premier Yon visited Shenzhen to hold talks with CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin because Jiang was visiting Shenzhen at that time to attend celebrations on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the special zone. However, experts speculate that General Secretary Jiang deliberately arranged to hold "talks in Shenzhen."

That is, they speculate, China strongly advised North Korea, which was requesting economic assistance, that it would adopt an open-economy system by establishing special economic zones, and North Korea expressed its interest in this plan.

North Korea declared the new economic policy of "pursuing joint ventures with foreign countries" after North Korean economic officials visited the Chinese special economic zone during the 1984-1985 period. This is why attention has been focused on the visit to Shenzhen by Premier Yon.

Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam was the first high-ranking North Korean official to visit the Chinese special economic zone.

When he was in China in February 1984, Kim visited the Electronic Machinery Center, the Shekou Industrial Complex, and a port construction site in Shenzhen for two days, on 11-12 February, and during his talks with the then Premier Zhao Ziyang, he said: "I was impressed by China's economic achievements."

He was followed by a North Korean economic delegation led by Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs. During its long stay in China, from 11 June to 3 July 1984, this delegation visited the special economic zone.

During his talks with former Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa on 5 July, right after this delegation had left China, the then General Secretary Hu Yaobang predicted that North Korea, freeing itself from an international isolationist policy, would adopt an open-door policy.

Hu's "prediction" became a reality after a Workers Party of Korea delegation led by Kye Ung-tae, candidate member of the party Political Bureau, visited the Shenzhen Special Zone on 3-5 August 1984.

Hu's prediction proved to be correct when the Standing Committee of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly adopted the Joint Venture Law on 8 September 1984. This episode shows that North Korea is having prior consultations with China in formulating its economic policies with China.

Minister of Commerce Han Chang-kun visited the Chinese special zone in March 1985, the last North Korean official before Premier Yon.

Even though it had paid particular attention to China's special economic zone, North Korea abolished the Ministry of Joint Venture Industry in May 1989 for its "having failed to bring good results." Therefore, the visit to the special economic zone which Premier Yon paid at a time when it was necessary for North Korea to formulate new external economic policies was the focus of attention as a matter of course.

In connection with this, attention is focused on the development of Hashan Delta, at the estuary of the Tuman River.

Two academic seminars took place in Changchun, Jilin, China, in July 1990 and in January 1991 to discuss the development of Hashan Island, at the estuary of the Tuman River, into a free trade zone.

China presented this plan at the July 1990 seminar. This plan foresees developing an area around Hashan Island, which is located in the North Korean-Chinese-Soviet border region, into a free trade port.

China and the Soviet Union fully supported this plan, of course. North Korea, too, expressed its positive support for it.

Experts say that North Korea will, of course, participate in the development of Hashan and will have no alternative but to consider establishing a semi-special zone in an area that will be affected by the special zone.

Unggi, North Hamgyong Province, is considered to be the strongest candidate for a North Korean special zone, and Chongjin is also a strong possibility.

Experts consider Ungi, among places near the Tuman River, to be an important site in the "golden triangle" linking Hunchun and Fosyet, an area that China and the Soviet Union are planning to develop.

Experts also say that it is easy to develop Chongjin, which is near Unggi and which has good port facilities, into a special economic zone as well as a free trade port.

This speculation is proven by the Japanese media report that a ranking official of the North Korean Ministry of External Economic Affairs told some Japanese economic experts that North Korea was "considering establishing a special economic zone or free trade zone" and that he also hinted that the Chinese-Soviet border region, in the northeastern region, will be chosen for this zone.

In connection with this, the moves by the Soviet Union, China, Japan, and other North Korean neighbors that have been carrying out a plan to establish a Pacific Basin economic community will likely lead North Korea to establish a special zone.

This issue was discussed during the talks between Li Peng and former Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita, who was visiting Beijing to attend the opening ceremony of the Asian Games in July 1990, and the talks between Chinese State Councillor Li Tieying and Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu.

This issue was also discussed when Soviet Vice Premier Maslyukov was visiting China last March. It is expected that it will also be discussed when General Secretary Jiang Zemin visits the Soviet Union in May this year.

Experts predict that North Korea will have no alternative but to consider establishing a special zone because the Soviet Union has demanded that it and North Korea cooperate in carrying out various development projects and because China has tried to find ways to use a port at the estuary of the Tuman River, North Korea.

'Financial Responsibility' Impedes U.S. Talks

SK1204113491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1110 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—Determining financial responsibility between South Korea and the United States in case of a war in the Korean peninsula is impeding talks for a bilateral military agreement, government sources indicated Friday.

Seoul and Washington have tentatively agreed to conclude the Wartime Host Nations Support (WHNS) agreement this fall during the 23rd South Korea-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) here.

The WHNS pact, which the U.S. has signed with 16 Western European countries including Denmark and the former West Germany from 1970's, details financial and military burden sharing necessary to support dispatched American troops in case of war.

"The government is reviewing possibility of tying up in this agreement some 400 different kinds of bilateral agreements related to logistics support that were signed over the past 40 years between defense authorities of the two countries," one source said.

South Korea and the United States had tried to conclude the WHNS agreement last November during the 22nd SCM held in Washington but delayed it due to differences of opinion on certain parts of the agreement, sources said.

The two sides had said that a draft accord should be ready before the Seoul SCM.

Ensuing negotiations have been impeded by financial factors, the sources said, specifically how much South Korea should pay.

'Tension' in Relationship With U.S. Examined

SK1004043591 Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean Jan 91 pp 174-193

[Article by Ham Yong-chun: "Hidden Reasons for Tension in the ROK-U.S. Relationship"]

[Text] **Waves Surge Onto the Korean Peninsula**

An extraordinary rush of turbulent air is whipping over the Korean peninsula. A number of whirlwinds which cannot be explained in just a few words are approaching the Korean peninsula at a high rate of speed, and powerful waves already are pounding our coasts. A strong sense of tension is spreading rapidly. Many cannot grasp exactly its nature and run about in utter confusion.

Many sit idly by and merely watch these prodigious changes, making no effort to understand their nature. Many more ignore the larger question of how to respond to these changes. They go no further than applying the completely antiquated yardsticks of the past to the realities of today and tomorrow. This refusal to change and to adapt clearly reveals as much about ourselves as it does about the other party, the other country.

We have achieved unbelievable economic growth through our own efforts, our own actions, yet that fact is not credited to us as once it was. The changes are perceived as only materialistic changes. We have numerous problems, yet we insist on clinging stubbornly to antiquated methods for solving these problems.

The waves of change beating against the Korean peninsula can be felt directly in the serious friction and discord which marks the recent relations between Korea and the United States. Our previous relationship with the United States is changing rapidly, and changing with no regard for Korean hopes. The tempo of that change is so rapid that neither country has time to find its own position, and the discord continues.

One clear change is that the United States is throwing aside its de facto role as Korea's patron and assuming the position of a partner. The Americans no longer carelessly toss off such terms as "ally" or "alliance forged in blood" about the Koreans.

As U.S. Ambassador to Korea Gregg noted, the ROK-U.S. relationship of the past, today, and in the future will be based on a foundation of eternal "interests," and that is the U.S. position. Moreover, the United States has gone so far as to "warn" Korea that we should adopt that same cold attitude.

From Adolescence to Maturity

In accord with this philosophy, the United States emphasizes pulling back from the unilaterally dependent security relationship of the past, while Korea itself emerges to take the lead in the security relationship. Even as the role of the Korean military increases and the role of U.S. forces in Korea diminishes, however, the Americans demand that we pick up a larger share of the defense burden.

In the trade arena, the Americans demand strongly that we completely open our market, that U.S. goods receive the same treatment in our market that Korean goods receive in theirs. That is the free market system to the Americans.

Formally speaking, the American positions are understandable. Undergirding their demands is the assumption that Korea has enjoyed immense growth in all sectors, including national defense and trade, so that Korea no longer needs to rely on a patron but needs instead to "stand alone."

We Koreans find our emotions complicated as we consider this, however. Most of us do not object to the basic idea of opening to imports or of assuming increased national autonomy. The problem is that America's demands in this regard have come so unilaterally and so swiftly that our collective heads are spinning. As a result, Koreans are terribly disgruntled with the United States.

This dissatisfaction blends naturally with the anti-American sentiment already existing among Korea's aggressively independent intellectuals. The two streams feed on each other and amplify negative feelings about the United States. Korea's unsophisticated folk, meanwhile, have come to think that, "In the past 'Uncle Sam' has been so generous, how could he intimidate a weak nation like us now, so quickly tarnishing his own reputation?"

To this, the American side bluntly responds: "How long are you Koreans going to whine like children?" The Americans believe that the future ROK-U.S. relationship will be one based mainly on trade. If Korea insists stubbornly on keeping its market locked up tight and emphasizing only exports, they think, then Korea should receive the exact same treatment as others—trade retaliation. Thus we see that a major cause of friction between the U.S. and Korea is the divergence of our mutual perceptions of each other.

If we analyze the problem coldly, however, we see that it will be mainly up to Korea to implement future change. The United States has already changed. Korea has just been tardy in realizing that they have changed. The ball is in our court already. Realizing that the United States is formulating world-wide policies for the 21st century, we cannot expect that Korea will be able to alter the Americans' strategy of emphasizing open markets.

We can try, of course, but our keenest efforts to convince the United States otherwise will result in no more than circumstantial adaptations or minor alterations. If we assume that Korea's power dynamic does not lag greatly behind, then we can return the ball America has hit into our court in a way we ourselves decide. But if we judge that we are clearly in a weak position, then we must exercise due caution in returning the ball, putting as much backspin on it as we can.

In the long run, then, the choice is our own. Will we move positively to open our markets or will we keep them closed? Or will we respond in an ad hoc manner, dancing first this way and then that? Whatever we decide, we can no longer expect tolerance or indulgence from the United States.

Korea is no longer a child (undeveloped country) or even an adolescent (developing country) on the international scene. It did not happen overnight, but Korea is now being treated like an adult. We have thus reached that point in our national development when we must experience the cold realities of life.

The discord between Korea and the United States seems to have been more serious in recent months in the United States than here in Korea. No more than six months ago we seemed like buddies, speaking of a honeymoon relationship. That has degenerated overnight into chilly name calling.

Chilling ROK-U.S. Relations

Chon Song-chol, a lawyer in a legal firm in Washington, quoted an American who works directly in foreign trade. "The agreement reached between Korea and the United States in the Super 301 negotiations built a friendly foundation between the two countries. But that foundation has been completely crushed. We have returned to the place where we began, where 'Korea' is used as a term meaning 'unfair trading country'."

Korean correspondents in Washington report that at no other time in history have the various departments of the U.S. Government expressed such frank and unanimous dissatisfaction about Korea.

The correspondents say that not only the Departments of Finance and Commerce and the U.S. trade representative but even the State Department, which has the best feel for Korean views, bitterly complain about Korea as if the four bodies comprised the four speakers in a quadraphonic stereo system. The American press has jumped onto the band wagon too. Every article appearing in the American press about trade issues with Korea is unilaterally critical and that's all.

Americans in Korea may retain a bit more warmth, but developments within Korea also are serious. The U.S. Embassy in Seoul and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Seoul both report to Congress and to the

U.S. press about the "cold treatment" and "unfair treatment" they receive here. Both watch and report, watch and report again.

These reports immediately enter American public opinion which then echoes the ideas back even more stridently to us. Americans living in Korea repeatedly seek out our government officials, convey their displeasure, and demand improvements. That kind of thing is reported in the Korean press as "protests" or "pressure" or even "threats" and eventually surfaces as examples of American "interference in internal affairs."

The U.S. Embassy in Seoul is in fact forbidden from contacting Korean reporters. American correspondents assigned to Korea bitterly criticize reporting in the Korean press, and this criticism also enters the United States proper, where it serves to inflame anti-Korean feelings among the American people.

Trade friction between Korea and the United States has reached a point where basic problems of trust, perception, and ill feelings have arisen to obscure the merits of the issues themselves. ROK Government officials involved in trade issues express concern. "We believe that our fate is to fall victim this spring to trade pressures or retaliation, the likes of which we have not yet experienced." What has gone wrong?

The first three months of 1990 amounted to a honeymoon period in ROK-U.S. trade relations, the first in a long time. We were out from under the U.S. Super 301 provision that has dangled over us like the sword of Damocles for the previous two years. The reason for that is precisely that the Republic of Korea had shown an enormous amount of sincerity over the last few years in reacting to trade pressure. We yielded in almost every sector, whether agricultural products, telecommunications, the exchange rate, intellectual property rights, tariffs, or in foreign investments.

The American side was satisfied. But that satisfaction boomeranged, becoming a source of ill will as Korea turned out to have trusted them too much. Washington turned right around and scrutinized Korea in detail to see if we were really opening our markets as we promised.

The United States had deep misgivings about the new economic team Korea installed in the middle of March 1990. Eventually, the Americans went so far as to decide that policies Korea had adopted to promote exports and to buoy the sagging economy amounted to de facto restrictions on imports. They used these policies to heighten trade friction.

Our "Movement Against Conspicuous Consumption" Fuels the Flames

One government official said it this way. "Actually, very few of our economic officials at the time regarded the American concerns and protests as extraordinary. Indeed, our first reaction was to wonder why Washington was increasing its interference in our domestic affairs. We were unable to grasp the essential nature of America's pressure to open to imports. Those people do not give subsidies to their export firms. They do not limit imports. They don't care what an individual or a company does so long as they pay their duties. What those people have is literally an open market. And what they are demanding of us is a market structured identically like their own. What they want goes far beyond simply reducing tariffs or expanding the list of importable items. What those people want is literally the opening of our market. They are saying that if we do not like it then we can stop trading with them. The situation is most unpromising."

The United States expected Korea's new economic team to pursue objectives that would tend to promote exports and restrict imports. The Americans expected import-limiting measures to emerge sooner or later under our economic team, and when the "movement against conspicuous consumption" caught their eye, they thought they had what they expected to get.

Unfortunately, in May 1990 the "movement against conspicuous consumption" became the first case to get snarled in Washington's expectations. Korea was faced at the time with a serious export slump combined with a growing social tendency for extravagant life-styles. The movement aimed to promote social discipline, industry, conservation, and savings, all of which would help increase investments. The various organs of the Korean Government strongly aided in the execution of the movement, which appeared to the suspicious Americans to be a measure to limit imports, since the U.S. Government was expecting to see precisely that.

Foreign goods counters at department stores closed, public opinion turned against imported automobiles, and the sales of foreign automobiles dropped sharply. Koreans who purchased foreign automobiles became the most likely suspects to those looking for Koreans leading lavishly extravagant life-styles. We made it more difficult for those returning from trips overseas to clear customs, and we applied stricter customs clearance procedures to goods imported from abroad. We also moved to limit the use of credit cards by Koreans traveling overseas.

All these things appeared to the United States to be Korea's slamming the door shut.

A rule of life is that once you start to doubt, you can not stop. Once the United States began to regard these measures as inappropriate, it went on to doubt other steps, such as the Ministry of Finance's extending the period before customs duties were to fall, an increase in the tariff rate on wine coolers, a revived "Let's smoke Korean cigarettes movement," limiting customs clearance for pecans, a kind of walnut, and some violent behavior at a seminar on how to cook American beef.

Moreover, movements led by civic organizations to denounce imported goods, farmers' demonstrations, the movement by farmers' groups to oppose agricultural imports, and an increasing number of violations of intellectual property rights, all these things made the Korean Government and civic organizations appear to be calling with one voice not for import liberalization but for economic "isolationism."

By October 1990, the government and people of the United States had raised the voice of criticism to a very shrill level indeed. Voices expressed every possible type and kind of ill feeling and anger. We were called a country which "does not keep its promises," a people "unworthy of trust," and a "selfish nation which wants to traipse into someone else's country and make money while keeping its own market shut tight."

The criticism reached a crescendo when Korea flew in the face of American expectations and adopted a position at the Uruguay Round negotiations that differed radically from that of the United States.

The American people are yelling, "Let's take another look at Korea." They are saying that they have got to treat those Koreans differently from how they have in the past. Nor does the problem end there.

Korea is the same way. Many Koreans feel a very strong negative reaction against the United States. We are at a historical point where our relationship with the United States must change, and many Koreans demand that we no longer be subject to the whim of American "arrogance." Whether anti-American or pro-American, Koreans agree that our relationship with the United States must change and agree also that we are in a transitional period. We have not been able, however, to reach a consensus on just how the relationship should change. We are confused. Each citizen expresses and supports his own views.

Pressure from American Defense Industries

Our Defense Ministry announced in October 1990 that Korea would completely re-review the FX Plan, a project under which we would acquire our next generation of fighter aircraft. The announcement by the Defense Ministry returned to square one an ambitious project by which Korea was to have acquired 120 McDonnell-Douglas F-18 fighter aircraft in a move to epochally bolster the strength of the Korean Air Force and also bring our aerospace industry up to the standards of advanced countries.

The aircraft decision by the Korean Government was an admirably decisive move that would have been difficult even under the ROK-U.S. relationship that prevailed in the past. Astoundingly, Korea was about to purchase with her own wherewithal 120 aircraft capable of flying faster than the speed of sound at a cost calculated in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Even more amazingly, Korea showed the courage to cancel that arrangement at the very last stage, just before the contract was signed.

The McDonnell-Douglas Company, a leading firm in America's defense industry, enjoys enormous influence. To begin with, the firm has strong ties to and enormous influence over the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Government in general, the American people, and indeed, with every nation in the world. The political leader of even a fairly considerable underdeveloped nation with sufficient temerity to trample the interests of a world-class defense company could easily forfeit his political life as a result.

The situation is different today, but we must bear in mind that the bribes (political funds) paid by Lockheed Aircraft Company in the 1970's to Japan's Premier Tanaka became an issue that eventually drove Tanaka from office. Nor should we forget what happened in Pakistan. In the mid-1970's McDonnell-Douglas bribed the first cousin of then Pakistani President Ali Bhuto, who worked as secretary-general at the presidential secretariat. McDonnell- Douglas wanted to sell airplanes to Pakistan, but the lobbying scandal later surfaced to bedevil their efforts.

The Korean Government decided on a complete review of the deal with McDonnell-Douglas because the costs of the program as quoted by the American firm in March 1990 came to an overall sum of 3.2 billion dollars, yet in early 1991 McDonnell-Douglas raised the price an astounding 40 percent, to 4.18 billion dollars, an amount much greater than our government ever anticipated. Our government's cancellation of the deal, then, was made on solid, reasonable grounds.

In the past, however, large U.S. defense companies selling weapons or military equipment have jerked Korea around as if we had a ring in our nose. This was, of course, the inevitable result of the fact that the United States provided Korea with an enormous amount of military aid.

The Korean Government's "valid response" to McDonnell-Douglas seemed convincing enough, but all the same we felt an undercurrent of concern.

A source who works in our national defense system put it this way. "I do not care how this case comes out, McDonnell-Douglas will not take it lying down. We will finally hammer out some kind of compromise and end up buying their F-18's." The problem, the source added, "lies in where we can draw the line during a compromise."

On 5 December 1990, the Defense Ministry announced that the Navy had completed its final selection process and chosen Lockheed's P3C Orion as its maritime patrol aircraft. The American-built aircraft will go into service in 1993. Korea will purchase eight of these anti-submarine patrol aircraft for a total cost of about 820 million dollars. For some time now the American firm, Lockheed Corporation, and a French company, Deseau Corporation (phonetic) had been locked in hot competition for this contract. This competition put pressure and difficulties on our government, and after a complicated and trying review process, we decided to acquire the U.S.

aircraft despite the fact that in many respects it was inferior to the French entry.

A national defense expert at Chongwadae observed, "Even if we say that buying the French aircraft was more advantageous, in the end a number of different considerations forced our hand. We had no choice but to buy the American craft, and that is the reality that exists between the United States and the Republic of Korea." The Chongwadae official is suggesting that Korea has an "obligation" to the United States because the "reality" is that the United States provided Korea a great deal of military assistance. What, he was asking, has France done for Korea.

This throws Korea into a regrettable situation in which the usual market forces favoring the buyer do not apply on our behalf in the military logistics market. Indeed, the converse is quite true. We twist and turn in the wind with every puff from the mouth of the "seller," which means the United States of America.

Incidents at the Security Consultative Meeting

The 22d Annual ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting was held in November 1990. The Security Consultative Meeting [SCM] was held in Washington in 1989, so Seoul was scheduled to host the 1990 meetings. As it ended up, however, the SCM was held once again in Washington because the Americans requested that we send our representatives to their capital, giving as excuses such things as the war in the Persian Gulf.

Reading from a prepared text on the first day of the conference, a U.S. Defense Department briefer said, "This SCM is being held in Washington because the last SCM was held in Seoul," a statement which varied, of course, from the facts. They went on to add insult to injury by referring to Korea's chief delegate as "new Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun" rather that "Yi Chong-ku."

Nor was that the end of it. The incidents continued the next day. The U.S. honor guard flew the Korean national flag upside down at a ceremony held on the Pentagon plaza. The flag remained upside down until Korean reporters complained.

The Koreans were angry. "How can they treat Koreans so coldly?" Some asked. Others called it downright "rude." Some have gone so far as to say lately that, "I think the United States deliberately arranged this McDonnell-Douglas thing" just to poison the atmosphere.

American actions, of course, could quite easily represent sheer error. But they leave a bitter taste in the mouth however they happened. One cannot help but remember that, "Nobody pays more attention to protocol than do the Americans." I think the incidents divulge the real way the Americans view Korea in the security relationship.

The fact remains that Korea continues to perceive in an absolute kind of way that we would be in serious trouble if the United States were not around to assure our national security. By contrast, the Americans see Korea as relatively unimportant, an issue behind the issue. Recent trends toward relaxation of tensions around the Korean peninsula have caused them to see us as being even less important.

The public affairs materials prepared and distributed by the U.S. Defense Department at the SCM treated the conference as if it were a pro forma event motivated solely by sympathy for the poor Koreans. As a result, no American newspaper reported a single line about the SCM.

It is not well known in Korea yet, but lately the U.S. Government agencies involved in trade matters and the American media as well are up in arms over a comic book called "Talli's Vacation Travels" which was published by our National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives. The ruckus kicked up over the book tells us reams about the existence and nature of differences in the way Korea and the United States view trade friction.

As part of a movement to encourage Korean citizens to utilize our own agricultural produce and ignore imported agricultural products, the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives printed 700,000 copies of the comic book and distributed them to all the primary schools in the nation in October 1990. There is nothing whatever in the 56 pages of this comic book that should give the Americans problems.

The Frenzy Over the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives' Comic Book

The story line of the comic book is one in which two children living in Seoul visit the country during school vacation and see for themselves the difficult lives of our farmers. The children are especially impressed by the blows imported agricultural products deal to the farmers, and each child comes to some realizations. When they return to Seoul they decide to start a movement to encourage the use of our own agricultural products and discourage the use of imported agricultural products. Koreans, of course, have grown up hearing this kind of story dozens and dozens of times.

The reaction from the American side when they saw the comic book, however, was extremely negative. Firstly, the Americans believed that the Korean Government controlled the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives, and so they saw complicity by the government in creating the comic book. The Americans' point was that while the Korean Government had agreed to open to imports, the fact was that our government was going so far as to inculcate the idea of a closed market even in our children. Washington was claiming that what we were doing differed from what we were saying.

Secondly, the Americans claimed that the comic book was intolerable even if the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives acted entirely on its own, without government involvement. At this point in history, they claimed, all countries are moving toward open economic systems. Neither governments nor civilian organizations had any business undertaking actions which ran counter to this trend.

The "Wall Street Journal" and the "Journal of Commerce" led the American press in a chorus of reports saying things like, "Korea's National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives has distributed comic books opposing imports to their schools as part of a larger movement to limit imports."

Allow me to quote an article from the 20 November 1990 "Journal of Commerce."

"American officials believe that Korea's campaign to conserve and to curb extravagant life-styles is a deliberate, detailed policy cooked up with President No Tae-u's approval to put Korea's trade balance back into the black. This source (sic) said that he believes the Korean Government is adopting the carrot and stick approach, using both conciliation and threats to parry varied demands to open imports. Another ploy enlisted in this cause is to conduct tax investigations on Koreans who travel overseas, on Koreans who purchase foreign automobiles, and on people and businesses who sell foreign-made goods to the Korean public.

"This comic book is being distributed to young children. It tells the youngsters that cheap Western agricultural imports are destroying Korean farmers. American officials believe the comic book to be racially discriminatory and to deviate from the facts. The comic book warns that imported fruit contains radiation and alar, a chemical additive no longer even produced."

The ROK Ministry of Communications recently printed and distributed a pamphlet titled, "Taewongun and Hong Kyong-sik," which dealt with the issue of how Koreans should react to the opening of the telecommunications market.

This pamphlet compares the two late 19th century Yi Dynasty figures who best symbolized the conservative view (Taewongun) and the liberal view that the country must open its doors (Hong Yong-sik). In the process, the pamphlet uses pictures and simple phrases to make the point that a modern society based on information needs an active if gradual policy of market opening.

Americans living in Korea focused only on the comic book published by the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives, completely ignoring the Communications Ministry's pamphlet. To put it simply, they choose to emphasize only what is disadvantageous to themselves, and they also exaggerated a number of points. A review of "Taewongun and Hong Kyong-sik" readily reveals the positive attitude of the Korean Government toward opening to imports.

The basic cause of discord in our relations with Washington during the present period of transition stems from the very rapid changes in the positions that have occurred recently in both countries.

America's economy once went on to new glories by the day, but since the mid-1970s the U.S. economy has begun to atrophy, and the process speeded up after 1985. The United States became a debtor nation for the first time in that year, and the country slips deeper into an economic quagmire by the month. This has resulted in a diminution of the United States' international political position and a reduction in Washington's influence. These trends in America show no signs of reversal despite the recent collapse of eastern Europe.

By contrast, Korea has developed meteorically ever since the 1960's. We are no longer the country which once had to rely completely on American aid. Our trade with the United States entered the black starting in 1982. Our relative importance continues to increase, even to the United States, where Korea is America's sixth largest trading partner on the globe. (See Table 1 and Table 2.)

TABLE ONE: AMERICA'S CHIEF TRADING PARTNERS (1989)

	(In 100s of millions of dollars.)		
Order	Exports	Imports	Trade Imbalance
1	Canada (785)	Japan (936)	Japan (490)
2	Japan (446)	Canada (882)	Taiwan (130)
3	Mexico (249)	Mexico (272)	Canada (96)
4	Britain (209)	W Ger (248)	W Ger (79)
5	W Ger (169)	Taiwan (243)	Korea (63)
6	Korea (135)	Korea (197)	China (62)
7	France (116)	France (130)	Italy (47)

TABLE TWO: KOREAN AND OVERALL TRADE BALANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES

	(In 100s of millions of dollars.)	
Year	Korean Trade Balance with U.S.	Overall Trade Balance with U.S.
1981	-3.9	-36.3
1982	2.9	-25.9
1983	19	-17.6
1984	36	-10.4
1985	42.6	-0.2
1986	73.4	42.1
1987	95.5	76.6
1988	86.5	114.5
1989	47.3	46

In March 1990, KOTRA issued a report on the status of international trade titled, "Changes in the Trade Laws and Policies of the United States and the Outlook for ROK-U.S. Trade Relations." This report provides information crucial to an understanding of American moves:

Changes in the Trade Policies of the United States

"The United States first developed trade protectionism in the 1930's to protect its agricultural products from foreign competition. American protectionism had the immediate result of triggering trade retaliation measures from other countries and caused a world-wide tariff war and the amalgamation of different nations into competing blocs. In this prototypical example, American trade protectionism eventually dealt a fatal blow not just to the economy of the United States but to the economy of the entire world as well.

"After World War II the United States felt sufficiently powerful to break down these same tariff barriers. Washington exercised strong leadership up through the 1960's to achieve a vast reduction in world-wide tariffs, ushering in a golden age of free trade. The overwhelming economic power of the United States underwrote this development.

"Beginning in the 1970's, however, Washington's hegemony came to an end as the United States fell to a position of relative weakness. This, in turn, triggered a gradual return to trade protectionism in the United States. Stagflation reduced employment as the international competitiveness of American industries plunged. This development goaded Congress and American industry to pressure for even more protectionism.

"Thus, in 1974 the Americans legislated trade laws which formed the mechanism to institutionalize trade protectionism. These laws empowered the president to take such retaliatory measures as raising American tariffs to force open the markets of countries which traded unfairly. The trend toward trade protectionism accelerated in the 1980's as budget and trade deficits in the United States grew more enormous by the year. As a matter of American political reality the Congress, which is sensitive to American public opinion and to grass-roots views in the electoral districts, stepped in to take control of trade policy, and American reaction turned sharply to a hard-line approach."

The U.S. trade balance has been in the red every year since 1968 except for only 1970 and 1975. According to figures from the Commerce Department, the U.S. trade deficit was 27.6 billion dollars in 1982 but had jumped to 126.5 billion by 1985, and reached 152.1 billion in 1987. Washington really turned up the pressure on world nations to open their markets after 1987, and as a result the American trade deficit fell back to 108.6 billion dollars in 1989.

The U.S. budget deficit reached an enormous 152 billion dollars in 1989, and even if the situation ameliorates the budget deficit is expected to reach 80 billion dollars in 1993.

Phase Five for the Japanese, Phase Four for the Koreans

Director-General Chang Song-kan, Second Cooperation Officer of the Economic Planning Board's Office of Overseas Economic Cooperation, diagnosed the problem this way. "Barring some sort of emergency, the United States will continue to pressure all countries to open their markets. Korea has no basis to ask the Americans to make an exception in our case. .... Thus, the key issue is how we are to respond to the American pressure for opening."

By contrast, let's look at Korea. We'll review just our actual trade numbers with the United States. The foremost nation in our export market is the United States. The United States trails only Japan in imports into Korea. In a word, our trade reliance on the United States is absolute.

The Korean market has become very important, even to the Americans. Korea is Washington's sixth largest import and export market. (See Table 1.) Reviewing Table 1 and Table 2 with American eyes quickly reveals that Korea is an important target for market opening pressure. When seen from the viewpoint of tariff barriers (See Table 3), Korea is an even more important target.

TABLE THREE: VARIOUS COUNTRIES' PLANS TO REDUCE TARIFFS

	(Evaluation by the GATT Secretariat)	
	Present Average Tariff Rate	Future Country Tariff Rate
United States	5	1.3
European Community	5.6	3.9
Japan	3.6	2.4
Canada	8.9	5.5
Australia	19.1	10.3
France	5.5	4.4
Norway	3.3	2.2
Sweden	4.6	3.3
Switzerland	2.26	1.6
Developed Countries' Average	7	4
Korea	17.5	18.9
Korea (new law)	17.5	11.6
Singapore	0.4	7.8
Hong Kong	0	0
Malaysia	9.5	9.2
Czechoslovakia	4.8	3.3
Hungary	10.4	7
Indonesia	20.3	20.3
Argentina	20.1	31.6
Peru	32.2	31.9
Taiwan	35.7	35.7
Mexico	45.3	36.9

Table 3 reveals that Korea has a high tariff rate even for a developing country. It is unacceptable, of course, to compare our tariff rates to those of South American countries which border on economic collapse. Moreover, Korea must be regarded as an advanced state among the world's developing countries, and Korea has recently been subject to the intense spotlight of international interest. As we can see, then, Korea has now emerged on the international scene as an urgent target for Washington's pressure to open markets.

We actually proposed a bill to raise tariffs, but so many countries reacted so sharply that in July of 1990 we submitted a revised bill which greatly reduced our tariffs. Even our government, then, had failed to grasp the international climate.

All one need do is sit down and review objective data to understand that the United States now includes Korea among the countries it must actively target. We will now review how the United States has pursued a policy of turning up trade pressure overseas since the 1970's. (See Table 4.) Japan has already reached Stage 5. The United States now demands even that Japan tear down and rebuild its social practices and customs, its trade and financial structures, its land policies, its standing practice of affiliating industries, and other indigenous Japanese social and cultural structures. The Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative has aimed at nothing else since its inception in July 1989. TABLE 4. INCREASING UNITED STATES' TRADE PRESSURE OVERSEAS

Stage/Tangible Examples STAGE 1: IMPORT RESTRICTIONS (To protect failing industries)

- —Quantity limitations: Agreements to preserve market order; restrictions on free exports.
- —Price limitations: Anti-dumping duties; offset tariffs.
- —Import bans. STAGE 2: DEMANDS TO OPEN MARKET

- —Promote Japanese imports from strategic industries in which the United States maintains an advantage.
- —Concentrate on areas where the United States has a competitive edge, such as service industries, agricultural products, and intellectual property rights. STAGE 3. DEMANDS FOR EXCHANGE RATE ADJUSTMENT

- —Pressure countries with large trade surpluses to revalue their currency.
- —Start with Japan and West Germany but expand to developing countries like Korea and Taiwan. PHASE 4. INTERVENE IN THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES

- —Intervene in the general macroeconomic policies of foreign countries, hiding behind the cloak of policy cooperation.
- —Demand and pressure Japan and West Germany to choose policies which expand domestic consumption and increase imports. PHASE 5. INCREASE RATE OF MARKET DOMINATION AND DEMAND STRUCTURAL

ADJUSTMENTS

- —Increase market domination by dividing the market and by beating others into an area.
- —Demand rectification even of the native social and cultural structures, as in Japan, including even customs and long-standing financial practices.

A few years ago the Japanese prime minister appeared in person on television to plug a campaign to "use imported products." He was reacting to measures taken by the United States under Phase 4.

Washington's insistence on making an issue out of Korea's movement against conspicuous consumption clearly proves that American trade pressure on Korea has already moved on to Phase 4 from Phase 3. This amounts to most unjust treatment, but it will not stop there. The United States very shortly will begin to apply Phase 5 measures to Korea. We have reached a point that requires urgent counter action.

Government officials involved with trade issues, diplomats, professors specializing in economics and international politics, international lawyers, and traders themselves are of one voice in enumerating a number of things that Korea must consider on a priority basis during this period of transition in our relations with the United States.

The behavior and way of thinking of the Korean people have not yet been internationalized, so we find ourselves in a situation in which we are always running behind the various incidents that occur in our relations with the United States.

An officer in the Economic Planning Board put it this way. "Had we tracked carefully Washington's process of policy-making, we could have understood and could have established long-term countermeasures. Had we followed this course, we would not have such strong perceptions of American cold-heartedness, nor would we find ourselves as bewildered as we are. All we did was react in an ad hoc kind of way to each issue as it surfaced between us and Washington. We did not have an articulated, long-term approach in hand. As a result, some of our reactions worked out well enough, but others had unhappy results."

Korean Government officials involved in trade issues understand this, of course, but every one of them is reluctant to say so publicly. "Anti-American sentiment is too strong," they say.

"The Problem is the Media's Attitude"

An article appeared in the 12 November 1990 "ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL" under the title, "Korea market-opening attitude tests American patience." It said.

"So great is concern about opening in the various sectors of Korean society that it is political suicide for a Korean Government official who favors reform to speak out."

If anything was ever a clear dereliction of official duty, this is it. If the circumstances in which we find ourselves today are really urgent, if the Korean people are judging the situation incorrectly, then our government officials must come forward without vacillation and say so. Even Japanese officials did that.

The Uruguay Round was an example. The government was afraid of the farming villages, and whiffled and shilly-shallied on the issue until everyone suffered through a bitter summer. The Korean media reported it as the government handled it.

One government official, however, was strongly critical of the media.

"When it comes to issues regarding trade friction, our media adopts an emotional and biased approach. I see no sign the media grasp macroeconomic issues or appreciate the nature of trade problems. The media have practiced blind criticism. They have been incapable of appropriate responses or consistent viewpoints. The media's thorough criticism of the Uruguay Round was way wide of the mark. The Korean people say they were confused by the way the media handled the Uruguay Round. In a word, the media companies themselves lack logical positions on the issues.

"If an employee of the U.S. Embassy or an American businessman meets a Korean Government official and introduces a complaint, that is not automatically 'interference' in our internal affairs. It becomes 'interference' only when the media reports it that way. There is a surge of antimedia sentiment within the government just now."

Another source of American misunderstanding is the various voices with which our government speaks. If a cabinet minister talks to an American about trade and promises in principle to open to imports, working-level officials of the same ministry will waste no time in trotting out domestic laws and regulations that suggest that market-opening shall not easily be accomplished.

Meanwhile a man like Commerce and Industry Minister Pak Pil-su, who has played a leading role in trade negotiations, calls loudly for market opening for external consumption, but in interviews with the domestic media Pak makes statements like, "We must emphasize the use of domestic products." In an era of growing internationalization such lapses are not acceptable.

Japan Considers Even the Nuances of Statements

A Korea Trade Association executive observed as follows.

"During the time of the second oil shock in 1979, the revaluation of the Japanese yen resulted in a mass inrush of imports into Japan. Japanese civic organizations reacted quietly, starting drives to 'Reuse worn-out goods,' 'Conserve energy,' and 'Repair and drive your old car.' The Japanese might have used terms like 'Do not buy foreign automobiles.' But they did not."

A grandiose ceremony was held in Washington on 11 June 1990 to mark the signing of a sales contract between KAL and the Boeing Company for 3 trillion won for the purchase of 23 Boeing 747-400's. The very next day, 12 June, it was announced to the press that a buying team headed by Korea Trade Association advisor Kun Chin-ho was discussing 4.5 billion dollars-worth of contracts to buy American products.

The U.S. media chose to ignore these events, however, and concentrated instead on shooting arrows of criticism at such things as the closing of Korean department stores' counters that sold imported goods.

An international lawyer in Washington noted as follows.

"When you look at the recent problems, you see that Korea does not try in the least to influence the American media. The United States is a country dominated by public opinion politics. Assuming that the media molds public opinion, then getting the media on our side is all that is required to win the battle.

"In our dispute with the United States over our campaign against conspicuous consumption, however, we did not provide our position in writing to the American media a single time. And we never do, so the American media have no way to understand our situation.

"In 1987 presidential candidate Richard Gephart campaigned his way around the United States condemning Korea as an unfair trading country. We stood quietly by while he did that. As you know, Americans regard the confident stating of one's views as a virtue. To the Americans, remaining quiet amounts to assent. Korea's trade surplus with the United States is less than that of Japan or Taiwan, yet it is Korea which is singled out as an unfair trading country. Korea's neglect of the American media contrasts sharply with the Japanese approach. Tokyo provides a ceaseless flow of information to the American media, supporting its positions whether or not an issue is sizzling at the moment. This data comes in the form of columns, articles, and readers' letters, and they all champion the Japanese position."

Korea is Short in Press Coverage and Negotiating Skills

Many of our own government officials believe that Korea lacks skill in international negotiations. Sources who work at the U.S. and Japanese Embassies in Seoul are of a single voice in claiming that, "The Koreans are too candid and too emotional in conferences." Even worse, they say that we go as far as to ignore the other side and fight among ourselves at international fora.

One example is an incident that happened during the ROK-U.S. trade talks held in Seoul in November 1990. The American side was using diplomatic terms to urge the Korean Government to open its financial market a little wider. Should that not occur, the American representative noted, then it was possible that Korea could encounter some disadvantages. The Korean delegate flew into a rage at this remark. "Are you threatening us?" The blunt question immediately ruined the atmosphere of the meeting.

One international lawyer noted that Koreans have yet to clearly understand American negotiating practices.

"When Americans negotiate they put 100 percent of their demands and conditions on the table. They do not mean to imply by this that the other side must accept all their conditions. They are saying, 'This is the most I would like to have.' As the negotiating process unfolds, the Americans will compromise and finally agree to accept say 50 or 60 percent of what they suggested at the outset. If they do better than that and end up with 70 or 80 percent, they are tickled pink. The Asian way, of course, is very different. No Asian would think of putting 100 percent of his desires onto the table at the outset. The Asian negotiator considers the situation of the other fellow at the table, decides in advance about what the other fellow can afford to accept, and tables only 60 or 70 percent of his demands to start with. Then the Asian negotiator tries to get all of what he put on the table.

"During the actual negotiations, then, the American side will continue to ignore the sincerity of the other side and demand 100 percent of its initial position. The Asian does not understand and suffers hurt feelings. His feelings, in fact, are hurt again and again as the American negotiator persistently argues each and every minute point.

"I have watched the way our government acts as negotiations with the Americans draw near. The Korean Government unties its bundle first. They unilaterally announce plans to open market sectors. The Korean Government thinks that it is revealing its sincerity to the Americans. We expect the Americans to recognize our capitulation. We expect them to understand that we are showing sincerity through such capitulation and that we expect them to be understanding, therefore, in the negotiations.

"But the United States can not understand this tactic. This is illogical under their game rules. They believe that negotiations have not even happened unless each side has given and each side has taken. When our side unilaterally unties its bundle, the American side wins one by default and urges us to get on with opening our next bundle."

The United States commonly follows this logic in trade negotiations. "If we can not reach a compromise, then you may encounter certain disadvantages." The direct meaning of that approach is "retaliation." Korea has no need, however, to be either hypersensitive on this point or to be too insensitive either.

We should not, for example, consider that the Americans are plunging down a "completely different path" and respond hastily. The United States usually plays its "retaliation" card in a tactical way. Thus, "retaliation" means let us solve the issue before we each go down completely separate paths. Koreans do not like "tough talk," but the Americans regard it merely as a candid rehearsal of an "anticipated outcome."

Even if a given negotiation does not result in an agreement, that does not mean that the United States will actually practice any "retaliation" it may have mentioned in the negotiation. The Americans can afford to play the retaliation card only after an exhaustive review of international politics and economics.

No Need to Be Upset by U.S. Mention of "Retaliation"

For two years the provisions of "Super 301" have stood out in our vocabulary as another term for trade pressure. But really there is very little to be concerned about. For two years now India has been designated under Super 301 provisions, yet the United States has yet to play the retaliation card against that country. They don't because they must first consider it from the standpoint of diplomatic strategy.

We have no particular need to mention the problems we feel either from Americans or from the U.S. Government, but let's review a number of them.

A diplomat put it this way.

"The Americans are those least able to put into practice the old saying about when in Rome do as the Romans do. They see everything from their own American viewpoint alone and act accordingly. They believe that theirs are the highest values. Others see this as arrogance, egotism, or unilateralism. Many times, then, even when they do something well, they end up being criticized for it. No matter how internationalized a society becomes, it will always have indigenous characteristics, yet the United States does not recognize that. The typical example is their demand for open markets. All they can do is demand that others open their markets on the precise style of the American market."

Dr Yu Chang-hui, vice director of the Overseas Economic Policy Institute analyzed Americans living in Korea in the following terms.

"They too must understand Korea's changing position. They must understand that as Korea's national power increases, so also will we experience an upsurge in national self-confidence and a maturing of our awareness of Korean citizenship. We are no longer blindly pro-American as we were in the past. Americans living in Korea are so caught up in the sweet reminiscences of the past that they are startled and angry by the recent cold attitude of the Korean people. American businessmen must also bear in mind that doing business in Korea is not as easy as it was in the past. We are no longer in an 'easygoing' era."

Economic Planning Board officials emphasize that the United States must develop a keener understanding of changes in Korean society, especially the pains and discord we have been experiencing lately as a result of the democratization process.

"When you hear the Americans make demands for market opening, they emphasize civilian autonomy, but now and then you hear them slip and use contradictory logic as they suggest that we interfere in the civilian economy or levy persistent demands thereon. As you know, the Korean Government no longer follows a policy of putting down civilian demands before they emerge. The government can no longer pull the civilian population along in any direction it desires. Hey, the U.S. rice problem amounts to nothing more than the interests of a few businessmen in California. But to us the rice problem is a crucial issue not only to our farm villages, but it also rules as a life-or-death issue in politics, society, and the economy as well. The United States needs to develop an attitude that will allow it to consider the difficulties that exist in somebody else's country. There is no need to think, 'In the past we helped you out, and now it is our turn.' There is no room for such simplistic thinking."

Just what does the United States think of the Korea it sees now? U.S. Ambassador to Korea Donald P. Gregg answered that question with acute clarity in a speech delivered on 21 November 1990 to the Korean Diplomatic Society.

At the beginning of his speech, Ambassador Gregg quoted British politician (Henry Pamoston), "There are no eternal allies. There are only eternal interests." Gregg went on to express his regret about gradually increasing anti-American sentiment in Korea and about the Korean media's reporting stance. In this latter regard, he said that our media reporting on the incident involving our conspicuous consumption movement, the American side's demands for import opening, and the Uruguay Round negotiations diverged from the facts.

Ambassador Gregg said the threat from North Korea was diminishing as a result of South Korea's healthy economic growth as well as other factors. As the threat reduces, he said, South Korea can shoulder an increasing share of its own defense burden. He noted that in the transition period today an unfortunate "emotionalism" seemed to surge in the stream of ROK-U.S. relations. He worried that this kind of emotionalism could possibly blur his country's rational estimates and injure our mutual interests.

Ambassador Gregg's central point was probably as follows.

"One of the most dangerous things the ROK and the U.S. encounter is for each naturally to feel that the other is always on his side. .... At a time when the world is pursuing free trade, if foreign goods cannot be seen in Korean markets just as Korean goods are visible in American markets, whether that results from government leadership or not, the fact is that the United States will respond forcefully. ....

"Our relationship has been maintained over the years by joint concentration on blocking a potential invasion from North Korea, but now as we put the cold war era behind us this may not provide sufficient foundation on which to preserve our relationship. When their children grow up and leave, a married couple may discover that very little remains to bind them together. When an external threat which has lasted for a prolonged period disappears, it can trigger a withering of the relationship between countries which countered that threat together."

"We Can Bid Farewell to Korea"

In April 1990, the United States unilaterally announced, without benefit of final consultations with Korea, the first stage of a plan to withdraw its troops from our country. Some 7,000 noncombatant troops will be removed in the first stage. The unilateral American move contradicted those in both countries who believed that as a minimum at least security relations between the two countries were on a sound basis. The Americans handled a crucial issue in a unilateral manner. The United States, it must be said, enjoys taking unilateral actions.

Koreans must now be cold. The locus of the relationship is changing from security and a military dimension to an economic and a trade dimension. At the heart of that trade dimension is the issue of market opening.

Government Service Grade B Official Pak Sang-yong of the Economic Planning Board said it this way. "It us unacceptable for us to open our markets as a mere reaction to American pressure. We have passed out of the era in which we had to rely on the United States. We must internationalize our society and open our markets in accord with our own needs. We must positively pioneer other overseas markets, and we must open our own doors before they are forced open. And we must knock on the doors of other countries as well. As a matter of fact, what other way is open for us, as a country whose economy is based so thoroughly on exports?

"We stand at this moment at a point where we must decide whether to make another great leap forward or whether we are satisfied with the status quo and wish to vacillate.

"Do we need to continue to guarantee the quality of a few manufactured goods just because the government decided decades ago to protect those industries? Does the nation need to continue to protect industrialists by insulating them in a hothouse where they can neglect to struggle for technology and to open up? We may face a few years of difficulty, but let us open the door and go out and compete fully on the international stage. Let us lay aside that which is sifted out, and let us breathe life into that which fights on to victory."

One international political scientist noted that the present period bears a striking resemblance to the period at the end of the 19th century when the West was strong and the East was developing.

"They are looking toward the 21st century and are counting heavily on strong demands for the opening of all sectors: service, banking, and telecommunications. At the end of the 19th century we had no reserve strength, and we had not been able to make advance preparations. The situation is different today. Our problem is the pace of opening.

"If we are to reorganize our domestic industrial structure, we must have time in which to do it. We need a shock absorber which can cushion us against abrupt jars and jolts. The issue we confront is not a simplistic one of whether to open or not to open. We will open, but we must be allowed to do so in the maximum time available under the rules of the game. It must be a gradual opening. We will face a good deal of misunderstanding and dissatisfaction, and we must be attentive of this. I think we can do well enough if we keep our fingers on world trends and negotiate with skill.

"The problem is one of the leadership and the political decisionmaking skill of our leaders. The time has come for the president of Korea to go in person to the Korean people, explain the nature of openness to them, and persuade them of its necessity."

How and in what new station must we establish the ROK-U.S. relationship?

Many trade experts say that when it comes to our crucial economic relationships with other countries, "In the past, now, and in the future, the United States will be our biggest single market."

Japan, a Variable as a Great Military Power

An economics professor noted as follows. "No matter the situation, no political or economic model is sufficient to describe it exactly. We must pull away from two extremist views that have prevailed in Korea, that we were dominated under dependency theory or that we were dominated under hegemonic structuralism." After laying down that condition, the professor went on to stress that, "Even a country with an economy as strong as that of Japan cannot afford to ignore its trade with the United States. Even Japan must bear in mind that it is in a position where it must respond to what can be called the unilateral structural adjustments demanded by the United States."

In the end, the fact simply remains that the economic power of the United States remains globally strong. Washington possesses enormous influence vis-a-vis Korea, and for so long as that situation prevails our position must be that we avoid deleterious trade friction with the United States while thoroughly "using" her market.

The Korea Trade Association's Yi Un-sam, head of the American Trade Section said, "We can build a more independent economic foundation by adopting a two-pronged approach. We must reduce our reliance on trade with the United States and Japan while at the same time expanding our markets in the European Community and Eastern Europe."

Sim Ki-mun, Director-General of the Foreign Ministry's American Bureau stressed that, "Up until now the United States has supported us not just on the security issue and economically but also on the international stage, and that applies as well to our Nordpolitik Policy. .... In view of the facts that the United States is not only Korea's number one export market but also is our largest trading partner and the country which accepts more emigrating Koreans than any other, then we must work very hard to successfully alter our relationship with the United States from one of patron to one of partner."

Director-General Sim also said, "Rather than cling to emotional responses, over the long term we must coldly and logically estimate what is in our own best national interests. .... If the United States were to withdraw from the structure of the four great powers which surround us—the United States, Japan, China, and Russia—we must bear firmly in mind who would rush into the resulting power vacuum."

Seoul National University Professor of International Politics Ha Yong-son analyzes it this way. "Koreans who are essentially pro-American also believe that Korean and American interests are similar and see the binational relationship as a horizontal structure. Koreans who are essentially anti-American perceive Korea to be a colony of the United States, with Washington holding both our economy and our security subordinate to American interests.

"The plain fact is that so long as we ourselves do not become a 'super power,' there is no international political way for Korea to forge a perfectly horizontal structural relationship with the United States. This holds true for Britain, for Germany, for the European Community, and for Japan as well. American influence was decisive even in the process of unifying the two Germanies.

Moreover, the present reality is that no complete democratization of international politics has occurred. Thus, we cannot stubbornly cling to the idealistic notion of an overly horizontal relationship with the United States.

"The relationship between Korea and the United States in the past was vertical and unilateral. We have been moving away from that structure toward a relationship that might be represented by a line angling upwards, but not a line that is horizontal. In the future, the ROK-U.S. relationship will move at a very slow pace toward a fully horizontal structure."

General Pak Yong-ok, who has a doctorate in political science and is posted to the Policy and Plans Office of the Defense Ministry, introduced his own diagnosis. "In the late 1990's the U.S. ground forces stationed in Korea will virtually all be withdrawn, leaving behind only a number of U.S. Air Force and Naval units. The residual forces will mostly be in charge of the early warning system." Pak believes that Korea's military autonomy will increase markedly.

"The North Korean threat will slowly decrease in the future. But that threat will be replaced by a serious anxiety that will last for a very long time as a result of the fluidity and opaqueness that will be infused into the Korean peninsula's security situation as a result of the great changes that will occur on the heels of the following developments: the atrophy of Eastern Europe, reconciliation between the United States and the Soviet Union, South Korea's own Nordpolitik Policy, the awakening of Japan's military strength, and changes in the military dynamic triggered by all the other changes.

"The United States is in the process of changing from a state which can impose a regional solution to one which can reconcile a regional solution. Japan has already become a great military power. We cannot yet see clearly how Japan will act in her new security role, but her influence will gradually increase. Against that backdrop, we must be very careful how we examine the future of our military relationship with the Americans. Even after unification we will need to maintain at least that degree of military strength sufficient to defend against an attack by a great power."

"Use the United States" Theory and a New Asian Structure

A Seoul National University professor advocates a theory of "using foreign powers." He noted as follows.

"We must clearly understand that however much anti-American sentiment may provide the individual with an emotional catharsis, no amount of anti-American sentiment can translate into real clout in the dynamic of international power relations. At the very minimum, then, we must arm ourselves with a clear picture of the United States and a long-term plan of action if were are to approach the United States and come away with our national interests enhanced.

"Firstly, we must read the United States accurately. We must read their cards accurately, must come to understand with precision exactly what the United States wants from Korea in the areas of trade and national defense. Unfortunately enough, the Americans have read our cards, but we have not read theirs.

"Secondly, we must adopt clear policy directions vis-a-vis the United States. We must know which method will serve us best in using the United States. If we read their cards accurately, and if we prepare a strategy for response, then in the end we will be able to concentrate our external power and our domestic strength, and influence the situation so that it develops to our advantage. We have no other choice, for the reality is that we can never respond one-on-one with the United States on the basis of our own power alone.

"One method we might well adopt is to take the lead in forming a bloc of Asian states not unlike the European Community. And over the long term, we must not rule out the concept of a new Asian structure based not merely on economic interests but on political and military dimensions as well.

"In this regard, we may well learn a lesson from the way Iraq has used Arab nationalism and Arab feelings of identity as a shield from behind which to pull Uncle Sam's beard."

"Standing Alone" Means Avoiding Being Pampered

A number of elements comprise the terrible whirlwinds that are surging over the Korean peninsula today. The sudden atrophy of Eastern Europe, and even the Soviet Union, comprise one element. Another is basic change in the cold war system that has gripped the world for more than 40 years. These changes resulted in the sudden establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and communist countries. This, in turn, has greatly increased the possibility of an amelioration of our confrontation with North Korea. These are enormous changes for us Koreans, who of all the populations in the world may have been the most willing and adept cold-war warriors.

Added to these enormous changes, the basic ROK-U.S. security structure is undergoing a disturbing transformation. And we watch as Japan begins an inexorably powerful rise to our east.

Another enormous element affecting our peninsula is a hot trade war unfolding around the world. The great powers are pressuring strongly for market opening. Whereas military confrontation once seemed to constantly mark the march of human progress, today we may not exaggerate to say that trade wars have replaced shooting wars. Virtually every country has given over the bulk of its diplomacy to trade issues. The United States of America is advancing at the vanguard in this international trend.

Futurologists like Paul Kennedy believe that world power has shifted from Pax-Britannica to Pax-Americana and that it may very well be in the midst of shifting again, to Pax-Japanica.

One crucial element of future change on the Korean peninsula will involve the efforts of the United States to reverse or slow the process of shift to Pax-Japanica, even as another crucial element in our future will be Japan itself, which already stands as an economic and military super power.

The fearsome whirlwinds moving onto the Korean peninsula will force Korea in the end to participate on the international stage as an independent player. Our umbrella has disappeared. We must rid our minds of the pampered attitude we carry around with us.

Will the day ever come, meanwhile, when we will be able to throw to the United States the same warning they threw to us? "There are no eternal allies. There are only eternal interests."

DLP Presidential Candidate Choices Considered

SK1404064391 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 13 Apr 91 p 3

[Article by reporter Yi Yong-chu]

[Text] In the wake of the "retreat" of Pak Chol-on, minister of sports and youths, the subject of vying for supreme power within the ruling party is focused on Kim Yong-sam, its executive chairman, and on "the forces against Executive Chairman Kim."

Considering the nature of the ruling party, it is inevitable that President No Tae-u's intention will play a decisive role in deciding the next presidential candidate. For this reason, in case President No thinks it impossible to promote the parliamentary cabinet system, whether he will choose Executive Chairman Kim or select "a representative of the faction of the Democratic Justice Party [DJP]" to have him vie with Executive Chairman Kim for the next presidential candidate is a matter of great concern.

At present, because President No Tae-u's intention is not obvious, it may be rash to talk about a "candidate of the DLP faction." However, considering the nature of the ruling party, it is highly possible that the decision of the DJP faction's candidate, after all, cannot but be made by the high echelon. In connection with this, mentioned are various figures within and outside the party.

Executive Chairman Kim's faction, the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP], has persistently claimed that he be officially recognized as the candidate for the supreme power in order to prevent the presidential supreme power from being weakened and to prepare for the next National Assembly's general election. With this claim, the RDP faction has persistently called for an "early selection" of the next presidential candidate. In the meantime, it is true that the DJP faction and the New Democratic Republican Party [DNRP] faction, however, have a different thought from the RDP faction's "general trend."

In particular, the DJP faction—the largest faction within the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]—has adhered to the principled position that "according to the party's constitution, the next presidential candidate should be selected through competition in a convention slated for May, 1992." Thus it has put a brake on the claim of Executive Chairman Kim's side. It seems that the DJP faction is taking such a position because the DJP faction's senior lawmakers have a mental apprehension that "Executive Chairman Kim is not reliable and it is difficult to entrust him with the ruling party's entire fate." Earlier, some of of the DJP faction's lawmakers raised their voices that the DJP faction's own candidate should be selected to vie with the RDP faction in order not to be defeated by the RDP faction's demand for an early selection of the next presidential candidate. Thus, the voices can be said to reflect such a mental apprehension of the DJP faction's senior lawmakers.

In connection with this, the DJP faction's outlined plan for the next presidential candidate has been drawing our attention every day since Minister Pak resigned as adviser of the Laurel Club.

In addition, it is expected that after the local council elections for large units in June, the RDP faction will issue its demand for deciding the next presidential candidate, and will include the issue of strengthening the party's power. Therefore, the DJP faction reasonably demands that its own candidate be realized early in order to prepare for such a demand from the RDP faction.

Above all, the DJP faction's candidates can be referred to Chairman Pak Tae-chun, head of the DJP faction, and such senior lawmakers as Yi Chong-chan, Kim Yun-hwan, Yi Han-tong, and Yi Chun-ku.

Chairman Pak has the distinction of having managed the DJP faction for the past year and was the strong driving force in creating the "miracle of the Pohang Iron and Steel Company." In addition, there are no forces against him within the faction. This is strong point and can be an "alternative card" of the DJP faction. It has been learned that when he had a tete-a-tete meeting with President No on 29 March, he was informed of how Minister Pak was being handled, and he received a "carte blanche" that "you should confidentially manage the DJP faction."

It has been frequently said in and around the party that since then Chairman Pak has appeared buoyant.

As evidence, some people cite the fact that 18 ranking members from all the factions of the DLP, including the DJP faction, attended a meeting on the evening of 10 April to congratulate him on his reappointment as chairman of Pohang Iron and Steel Company.

He is from the military and from the Yongnam region, and he does not have a strong popular image. These are considered to be his weak points as a presidential candidate.

Lawmaker Yi Chong-chan has an image as a moderate, and is popular among the people. This is his strength. The fact that he is from a family that was involved in an anti-Japanese struggle for independence is an asset. The fact that he is named a leader of the next generation in every opinion survey shows how popular he is.

As a leader among those who insist on a need for a "generational change," he has nurtured the dream of becoming a presidential candidate, while persistently carrying out political activities, and, for this reason, has been held in check by leaders of the ruling circles. However, it has been pointed out that he is very unlikely at present to be selected for the higher level because he does not get along well with DJP-faction members from the Yongnam region, who are represented by the TK [Taegu-North Kyongsang Province] group.

Lawmaker Kim Yun-hwan, DLP secretary general, is a leading member of the TK faction who can read President No's mind better than anyone else and who has a good personal relation with him. This is his strength. He has said that he has "no ambition for the presidency," stressing his 'silent' political style. However, some people say that he is "in a good position to cherish hopes for the next-next presidential term" because of his peculiar talent for keeping good relations with other people and his substantial support from inside the party.

However, it has been pointed out at the same time that his being from North Kyongsang Province is a weakness.

In addition to Lawmaker Yi Chong-chan, Lawmakers Yi Han-tong and Yi Chun-ku are considered possible contenders for the presidency because they are front runners among politicians from the central region. However, they have not shown any intention of pursuing the top job.

National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu is also considered a contender. However, in view of the fact that he is a "senior TK faction member," it is strongly believed that he would be a possibility under the cabinet system. Some people even say: "The DLP faction may support Chairman Kim Chong-pil as a contender."

Prime Minister No Chae-pong has been mentioned occasionally as a contender from the DLP. Many in the DJP faction doubt the possibility of the "Prime Minister No card." However, it is still possible that he may be a choice depending on the president's decision.

New Defense Ministry Structure Viewed

SK1504112191 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 28 Mar 91 p19

[Text] The long-pending work of reorganizing the organizational structure of the Ministry of National Defense [MND], which had been put off for more than two years, has ended with the promulgation of the revised organization decree of the Ministry of National Defense which will become effective on 28 March. The reorganization of the MND's organizational structure is aimed this time at realizing the civilianization of the MND's structure and at enhancing the professionalization of its business. Therefore, it deserves to be highly appraised as an organizational readjustment aimed at realizing the civilianization of the MND's organization. In the new MND organizational structure, the positions of civilian government officials at the level of bureau director and section chief have been increased.

Along with this, the Office of National Defense Policy [kukpang chongchaek sil] and the posts of civil affairs coordination officer [minjong hyomryok kwan], arms control officer [Kunbi tongje kwan], organization management officer [chojik kwalligwan], and the defense computer center [kukpang chonsanso]—which is a subordinate organization of the MND—have been newly established in the new MND organizational structure. Thus, the MND's function and organization for developing national defense policies have been further strengthened.

In the new MND organizational structure—reorganized this time with two assistant ministers [chagwanbo], two offices [sil], seven bureaus [kuk], 13 officers [kwan], 34 sections [kwa], and the posts of 45 specialist officers [damdanggwan]—the posts of bureau director and equivalent which are to be occupied by civilian government officials have increased from the present three posts—namely the inspection officer [kamsagwan], the budget compilation officer [yesan pyonsonggwan], and director of the finance bureau—to five posts—namely the above three officers, the newly established civil affairs coordination officer, and the public information officer [kongbogwan]. The posts of section chiefs which are to be occupied by civilian government officials in the new MND organizational structure, has also increased from the present 31 posts to 35 posts. [as published]

Accordingly, of the total 103 positions in the MND at section chief level and above, with the exception of its minister and vice minister the new MND organizational structure has been readjusted as follows: The posts of the two assistant ministers are occupied by one military officer in active service and one civilian, and the posts of the chiefs of the two offices [sil] are also occupied by one military officer in active service and one civilain. In the posts of bureau directors and equivalent, five posts are occupied by civilians and 15 posts occupied by military officers in active service. (The present ratio is four to seven.) In the posts of section chiefs and equivalent, 35 posts are occupied by civilians and 44 posts occupied by military officers in active service. (The present ratio is 42 to 61) In particular, the revised organization decree of the MND prescribes that one of the two assistant minister posts, which have been occupied by major generals in active service thus far, is occupied by a civilian. Thus, the decree has further increased the possibility of the MND being managed by more civilians.

The new MND organizational structure has also newly established the Office of National Defense Policy by separating the national defense policy-making function from the existing Office of Planning and Management. The newly established Office of National Defense Policy takes charge of the work of making and developing overall national defense policies. This office has three organs under it, namely the Office of Policy Planning Officer [chongchaek kihoekkwan], the Office of Arms Control Officer [kunbi tongje kwan], and the Office of

Troop Education and Information Officer [kyoyuk chonghun kwan]. These offices are to be headed by major generals in active service.

What draws our particular interest in the new MND organizational structure is the establishment of the the system of civil affairs coordination officer [minjong hyomryok kwan] who will mainly take charge of affairs on support for civilians and coordination with civilian organs.

The MND plans to post a second or third-grade civilian government official in this position and to have him play the role of a channel for coordination between the military and civilians. The MND also plans to have him perform the business of political affairs under martial law. The post of the organization management officer [chojik kwallikwan]—which has been newly established by reorganizing the Organization Section which was under the Office of Planning and Management—will take charge of the function of effectively managing and controlling military organizations. The post of the organization management officer will take charge of the ongoing task of readjusting mainly the military strength of the standing army [sangbikun] and of reorganizing its echelons.

Assistant to the Defense Minister, a post of which has been optional, has been abolished. Instead, the post of assistant to the defense minister has been reorganized to be the assistant to the defense minister for military affairs. Accordingly, the assistant to the defense minister assumes the role of assisting the minister on military affairs. The establishment of this new post of assistant to the defense minister for military affairs is aimed at further strengthening the function of assisting the minister on military affairs because the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff which was newly "founded" last October is to exercise the rights of military command.

The establishment of the new Defense Computer Center is also noteworthy. The computer center is aimed at effectively building up the comprehensive computer system of the Defense Ministry. In fact, the development of the computer system has been relatively backward in the Defense Ministry. The Defense Computer Center which has been established in the Ministry as an independent organization in order to improve the backward state of the computer system of the Ministry will not only build a unified computer system, but also control all computer management work in the Armed Forces.

With the current reorganization of its organizational structure, it seems that the Defense Ministry has attained its two desired goals: the civilianization of the MND structure, and the enhancement of the professionalization in its business. However, despite the support for the civilianization of the MND structure as reflected in its new organizational structure, there are still many posts that are "plural assigned," where civilians or Army officers on active duty can be assigned.

Accordingly, there is still a high possibility that civilians may be excluded from being assigned to these posts. In other words, under circumstances in which the superiority of officers on active duty to civilians prevails, the problem is how many civilians can be assigned to these "plural assignment" posts. Our concern is based on the fact that no cicvilian has been assigned to the posts at the level of bureau chiefs [kukchang] and office directors [silchang] under the new organizational structure. The new organizational structure also allows only military officers on active duty to be assigned to posts such as those in the war industry field, in logistics, and weapons procurement, all of which which need professionalization and continuity in business. This also disappoints us.

In particular, considering today's reality in which negotiations for the introduction of strategic weapons to beef up our defense industry are underway, it is very difficult to expect these military officers on active duty, who will be reassinged to other posts within two years, to display high negotiations technique and professional knowledge. Therefore, the experts concerned unanimously emphasize that heads of these posts should be civilians. At the same time, they also stress the need to introduce the system where government public officials are in charge of national defense affairs.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Australian Restriction Called 'Trade Obstacle'

BK1404152691 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, minister of international trade and industry, regrets Australia's action in restricting the entry of Malaysian-made batteries and regards it as a trade obstacle . Malaysia has often been subjected to such obstacles put up by developed countries. She said Malaysia has for a long time given arguments and explanations to developing [as heard] nations that the government gives only incentives and not subsidies to local industries.

She briefed newsmen on the matter when asked to comment on the Australian charge in the nation's capital. Datuk Sri Rafidah said her ministry is holding discussions with import companies in the country to clarify the matter. She said the government would ensure that developed countries do not arbitrarily make allegations against the country's policy.

Minister Najib Speaks on Ties With Australia

BK1404072491 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak has described the strained relations between Malaysia and Australia as merely transitory. He said the problem could be resolved if both countries show respect for each other.

Malaysia, particularly in its print and electronic media, had not smeared Australia's image. He was speaking to newsmen after presenting Hari Raya goodies in kampung [village] to kampung Jaya Gading residents in Kuantan, the state capital of Pahang.

He urged the Australian print and electronic media to obtain the actual facts about Malaysia before launching any article or feature. He added that Malaysia was ready to furnish the information needed such as on its trade, culture, and religion to groups in Australia.

'Rumors' About Mahathir's Poor Health Continue

BK1504093491 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0837 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 15 April 91 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Certain people within and outside Malaysia are continuing to spread rumours that Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed is ill, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob said here. They are spreading the rumours through the telephone and telex to smear the nation's image and manipulate the share prices, he told reporters Sunday.

He described the spreading of the rumours as irresponsible and said the government cannot [words indistinct] the sources. Datuk Megat Junid said the intention of these people is to topple the prime minister because they are jealous of the success the country has achieved in various fields.

The rumours however, did not adversely affect the nation's image because Malaysia has been acknowledged as a country advanced in the areas of economy, racial unity, politics, and development, he said.

He said the rumours [words indistinct] intended to bring down share prices in the hope that these people can make quick profit when prices rise afterwards.

Megat Junid said investors in the country are unaffected by the rumours because they have confidence in the stability and administration of the nation.

Asked about a syndicate falsifying Singapore international passports to enable people to enter the country, he said the government is working with the republic to trace its members.

He said the Immigration Department traced and recently arrested five people from China who had falsified Singapore passports to enter Malaysia.

He also [words inidstinct] people from China have been detained by Singapore authorities for investigations into the matter.

Mahathir Previews Planned New Economic Policy

BK1204152691 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] The government will continue to establish a more equitable society under a new national economic policy to replace the New Economic Policy. In addition, the government will also continue to eradicate poverty. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said that what would change in the new policy may be its approach. The government will adopt a new approach which is expected to be more effective in achieving the government's goals.

Speaking at a special interview with RTM [Radio Television Malaysia], Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said that the government would emphasize property management in addition to its possession under the new approach. He stressed that the government would not be able to achieve its goals if the indigeneous citizens did not know how to manage their property and eventually lost it. Double-edged efforts will be maintained in the new policy.

On proposals made by the National Economic Consultative Council, the prime minister said that there are many proposals acceptable to the government. However, there are some proposals which may not help the government to achieve its goals.

On Malaysia's goal of becoming a developed nation by 2020, the prime minister said that a developed nation would not be a government vision if the indigeneous citizens could not play their normal role. The government wants all citizens to have their shares by 2020.

Cambodia

Heng Samrin Issues New Year Message

BK1404090591 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0421 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 14—On the occasion of Chol Chhnam Thmei—the traditional Khmer new year—which begins today, Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the State Council, extends his best wishes to all Buddhist monks, countrymen, cambatants, cadres, workers, peasants, intellectuals and employees who have made active contributions to the cause of the fatherland and the people.

In his message, President Heng Samrin also expresses his compliments and profound gratitude to the war invalids and wounded under treatment at various hospitals, and to the families of those who have fallen in defence of the country, the social achievements and the peaceful life of the population.

President Heng Samrin's compliments also go to the overseas Cambodians, friendly countries near and far, progressive organizations, the international community, peace- and justice- loving personalities in the world and representatives of all diplomatic missions in Cambodia, and to the specialists and international organisations who have rendered their moral and material assistance to the Cambodian people.

The message further says: "Last year, the year of the horse, the party, government and people of Cambodia deployed all-out efforts in surmounting all difficulties and obtained great achievements, especially in maintaining the social gains.

"Up to now, our enemy have not yet renounced their attempts to continue the sabotage war against their own nation. They speak of peace, but during the whole 1990 and since the beginning of this dry-season, they have intensified their military operations, artillery rocket bombardments against pagodas and the camps of war refugees, causing heavy losses in life and property to the population. However, their hostile moves have been foiled by our Armed Forces and people.

"The achievements scored with self-abnegation by our countrymen in opposing the adventurous moves of the enemy since early this dry season constitute a new progress in the capacity of our beloved fatherland to defend itself and the peaceful life of the population, a progress attributable to the efforts of our party and state and to the international community's contributions to the cause of peace and national reconciliation in our country and to peace and cooperation in the region and the rest of the world."

President Heng Samrin calls on all those in the Khmer opposition ranks to rejoin their families and the society. He also appeals to the other Khmer party to show its goodwill in the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem by immediately ceasing all hostile acts against its own nation and to sit down to the table for futher discussions to put an end as soon as possible to the conflict and bring lasting peace for the country and people.

"I would like to call for more efforts from the international community for an active contribution to stopping the Cambodian conflict, bringing peace to the Cambodian people and maintaining peace and stability in the region," the message says.

It goes on: "In the near future, should the international community support the five-point proposal made by the State of Cambodia for the reconvening of the meeting of the Supreme National Council, a voluntary cease-fire, the cessation of all foreign military aid, a moratorium on arms shipments to Cambodia and the sending of a U.N. fact-finding mission to the Khmer coalition controlled refugee camps in order to lay the groundwork for rapidly reaching a global political solution to the Cambodian problem.

"This year, the year of the goat, bears a particular importance in the struggle for 'peace and national reconciliation'—the principal objective to which our people ardently aspire. It must be peace and national reconciliation based on the respect for the independence, sovereignty and the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people and the United Nations' Charter, and on the prevention of the recurrence of the genocidal Pol Pot regime condemned by the Cambodian people and the whole mankind."

The president of the State of Cambodia appeals to the armed forces, cadres, workers and employees throughout the country to sharpen their vigilance, uphold the spirit of self-reliance and the banner of national concord, mobilise all forces and take all measures to defend the social gains and push up the national economy.

PRACHEACHON Urges Vigilance on New Year

BK1504111191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 12 Apr 91

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Ensure Security During the Traditional New Year"]

[Text] Cambodian people throughout the country have always taken part in celebrating the new year, a precious tradition of our ancestors, particularly since the country and nation were liberated from the genocidal Pol Pot regime. They do this every year joyfully and safely in accordance with national traditions and customs.

This year, we most proudly welcome the new year celebrations. It is an honor for all of us who have cooperated and overcome difficulties and obstacles to bear and maintain the situation in every sector with one success after another to efficiently defend independence, sovereignty, social and national gains, and the people's rights and freedom, and also prevent attempts to bring back the genocidal Pol Pot regime. We rejoice in taking part in the celebrations but we should not forget that security must be ensured.

We clearly know that the Pol Pot-Sihanouk-Son Sann genocidal alliance has never acknowledged and acclaimed the miraculous rebirth of our country and nation, the development of the society and nation, and the peaceful and happy life of the Cambodian people. For 12 years this alliance has made efforts to use all kinds of activities and maneuvers to hinder and destroy our society and nation in every step of their progress.

At the beginning of 1991, as the negotiations for a political solution to the Cambodian problem reach the final stage, the genocidal alliance, with the continued support of foreigners, has intensified military activities, escalated the war, and caused destruction to the property and lives of innumerable innocent people. However, these insane activities have been vigorously counterattacked by our Armed Forces and people who dealt the enemy successive serious setbacks. Despite all this, this alliance still refuses to give up its ambition and dark maneuvers, particularly at a time when it is being defeated on the battlefield in the western part of the motherland. These people still try to find ways and means to carry out subversion and sabotage activities to destroy people's property, social and national gains, and destroy the people's traditional and religious celebrations so that our society and nation are thown into confusion, loose social order, and open society.

Therefore, along with celebrating the traditional new year, everyone should heighten their vigilance and make good preparations to ensure the military situation, security, and social order before and after our traditional new year. The Armed Forces, including the police and militiamen, should extend their spirit of high responsibility in their own sectors and be ready to thwart and stop all kinds of enemy subversive activities to ensure security and social order. Each one of our people should actively implement well the three dont's and one do movement. We should constantly and clearly realize that each one of us is a soldier and a policeman. We should strive to ensure the smooth celebrations of our ancestors' precious traditional festivities.

Khieu Samphan, Son Sen Greet Sihanouk

BK1304043091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Message from Khieu Samphan and Son Sen to Norodom Sihanouk, "president of Cambodia and leader of the Cambodian national resistance forces" through (Soen Chhum), Pyongyang; dated 11 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Respected samdech:

On our traditional new year, the year of the goat, all of us, along with cadres and male and female combatants, are happy to join our entire Cambodian people and compatriots in and outside the country, and along with cadres of our tripartite national resistance forces, in wishing the samdech and wife constant good health and longevity.

Respected samdech, this year is the 13th in the courageous, valiant, brave, arduous, and persistent struggle of our nation and people and our tripartite national resistance forces for national liberation in which our nation and people and our tripartite national resistance forces, under the lofty leadership of the samdech, have braved all kinds of obstacles and difficulties in fighting and forcing the Vietnamese enemy aggressors to face the most serious situation.

The UN Security Council [UNSC] document has clearly stated that Vietnamese aggressor forces should be withdrawn from Cambodia under genuine UN control to let the Cambodian people decide their destiny themselves. It is true that the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their accomplices are still making efforts to get themselves out and carry out all kinds of maneuvers—military, political, psychological, and diplomatic—through their own tricks and proxies in an attempt to oppose and destroy the peace plan to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia which the UNSC has officially and solemnly adopted. This is in order to continue committing aggression against and occupying Cambodia forever.

However, despite their efforts to get out and their tricks and maneuvers, the Vietnamese are in a turbulent stage similar to a dying person both on the battlefield of aggression in Cambodia and in Vietnam. Vietnam's support in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have already vanished. Our nation and people and our tripartite Cambodian national resistance forces have always been encouraged by the just and clear-sighted words of the samdech, who always says that we need peace, but peace with independence and our territorial integrity. Our nation and people and our tripartite Cambodian national resistance forces, like the United Nations and the entire world, will certainly not allow the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their puppets and lackeys to alter or tear up the UN documents.

It is in this spirit that all of us firmly believe that our nation will be liberated. It is in this spirit that all of us wish the samdech and his wife good health and longevity. The samdech is currently president of Cambodia and leader of the Cambodian national resistance forces. In the future, our nation and people still need the samdech to remain Cambodian president so that after liberation our nation can enjoy long-lasting great national union devoid of rift and squabbling and without any discrimination among black, white, blue, or red;

there should be only one nation and one people sharing weal and woe to prevent outside enemies from annexing our nation.

Please accept the most profound and revered and affectionate sentiments from all of us.

[Dated] 11 April 1991

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, Son Sen

Sihanouk Sends New Year Greetings

BK1304114391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Message from Norodom Sihanouk, "head of the National Government of Cambodia and leader of the Cambodian National Resistance, to the Cambodian people on the occasion of the Cambodian new year 13 April 1991"—recorded]

[Text] I, Norodom Sihanouk, would like to extend my greetings to all uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, and children, all my beloved and trusted compatriots.

On this solemn occasion, I would like to praise all of you for having perfectly preserved our Cambodian tradition under the shadow of Buddhism, which has been the religion of the Cambodian state since ancient times. I also commend all of you for having remained loyal to our Cambodian motherland and always making the priceless contributions and sacrifices to the struggle for liberating our Cambodian nation against the colonialist and annexationist Vietnamese, meaning the SRV. Since 1978, the Vietnamese have invaded and encroached upon our country, plundered our nation's property, persecuted our people, and misappropriated our land and turned it into their territory. They have also turned Cambodia into their satellite and lackey.

It has been with our people's patriotism and loyalty to the nation that our Cambodian National Resistance [CNR] movement and our resistance forces have continued to achieve small and great victories toward completely liberating the nation with its full sovereignty and independence as in the era of sangkom reas niyom [Sihanouk's popular socialism]. We will then further unite to rebuild Cambodia toward multifarious progress as in the previous epoch which you have often referred to as the era of samdech euv [reference to Sihanouk] and of our sangkom reas niyom.

Our memory of the harmony in the past is appropriate, but we should also turn our attention to another matter, meaning we should maintain our firm determination not to give up our struggle against the Vietnamese enemies, who are our Cambodia's longstanding historical adversaries. The Vietnamese enemies have been ambitious to swallow our territory and to eradicate our Cambodia once and for all, as with Kampuchea Kraom, which they plundered with muscle and force of arms. They have mercilessly attacked us and slaughtered our people and nation for the purpose of exterminating our Cambodian race. So, we should never retreat.

Some people say there should be love for peace against war. As Buddhist followers, we undoubtedly love peace. But what is the meaning of peace if the Cambodian race is exterminated and if we agree to allow those Vietnamese to oppress and annex our territory, to plunder our national resources, and to expunge the freedom of our people and nation. By all means, despite whatever love we have for peace, we, as good Cambodians, still have the obligation and duty—which are of vital importance for our nation—to carry on our struggle until the Vietnamese totally consent to set our territory free. We accept to set aside the issue of Kampuchea Kraom, because we have lost it due to our misfortune. However, the Vietnamese must hand over to us our present-day Cambodia—which was fully independent with its territorial integrity until 1969, prior to the coup d'etat in March 1970. We only ask for this. If we cannot obtain it, we must then inevitably continue our struggle even though we are extremely fond of peace.

The big five members of the UN Security Council—France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, the United States, and China—in close cooperation with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, have hammered out documents and a peace plan for Cambodia. If we, the four Cambodian parties, implement the peace plan, we will then be able to recover peace right away, not next year or in a few more years. We can regain peace within this year. But unfortunately, because of the regime of Hun Sen, Chea Sim, and Heng Samrin—which is the SRV satellite that the Vietnamese have installed and backed so far to serve their interests—in Phnom Penh, Cambodia has refused to implement the well-forged plan, which is a historic gift having all suitable characteristics of the United Nations and the big five.

The tripartite resistance coalition headed by myself has solemnly declared that we enthusiastically welcome and accept to unreservedly implement the peace plan—the Khmer Rouge have even agreed to fully execute the plan. Among the provisions of the peace plan, there is a clause stipulating that the armies of the Khmer Rouge, Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Hun Sen must be disarmed. This is to protect our respected and beloved Cambodian people from being menaced. Peace should be fully restored to the people. The people would be fully free and peaceful as the United Nations and its special force called the UN peacekeeping force will be dispatched to Cambodia not to control Cambodia of course, but to defend the people, to safeguard peace, and to protect human rights, independence, and territorial integrity for the Cambodian people. The United Nations will then organize fair elections in Cambodia in compliance with fine democracy to allow our people, who are the sole owners of Cambodia, to choose their destiny themselves as they believe and wish. The people can choose a political regime, a government, and leaders to suit their desires within the framework of general elections in a fully free Cambodia.

The big five UN Security Council permanent members' rationally forged peace plan has been fully accepted by the CNR movement. But the Phnom Penh regime has rejected it because the regime only thinks of its own interests and power. It does not take into consideration the fate and future of our nation and people. It only cares about the benefits of its Hanoi Vietnamese masters and Vietnam. Therefore, it has created all manner of obstacles to a solution to ending the fighting, preventing peace from being restored. Moreover, for the time being it allows a great many Vietnamese commando troops with warplanes, helicopters, cannons, and a huge amount of war equipment to help it to fight the resistance forces, especially in Battambang, Oddar-Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, and Kampot Provinces.

Now, the war is still going on, and our people are facing graver danger and endless suffering. The tripartite CNR movement led by myself, Norodom Sihanouk, wants peace and is ready to implement the peace plan of the big five. We only want peace. We do not want to continue the war anymore. Indeed, we are not defeated in the war and we have even achieved more and more significant successes. But because we love peace and respect the people who also want peace, we agree to stop fighting. If the Phnom Penh side agrees to heed the United Nations, peace will certainly befall us immediately within this year. However, as our nation is luckless, the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim regime has so far rejected to implement and to abide by the peace plan of the major countries.

Now, as we are celebrating the Cambodian new year according to our fine tradition, so I—respecting the desire of the uncles, aunts, children, and compatriots to carry on the new year celebration program—do not intend to continue any longer and wish to end my message here.

I pray that the Buddhist scriptures, gods, and our late kings and queens will help our Cambodia, our people, and our nation to recover peace in the near future; to see that our Cambodia regains its full independence and territorial integrity; and to help defeat the Vietnamese with their colonization, making them withdraw from Cambodia as soon as possible. I also wish to extend my love for all of you outside and inside Cambodia. May you achieve peace at an ealier date and have the best of health.

Long live Cambodia!

Long live Buddhism!

Long live solidarity and unity among peace-loving Cambodians.

I end my message here. Thank you.

District Seat in Kampot 'Liberated' 11 Apr

BK1504024091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 14 Apr 91

["Special report: Our Resistance Forces Liberated Kompong Trach District Seat in Kampot Province"]

[Excerpt] Since the beginning of April 1991, the Vietnamese enemy has brought genuine Vietnamese troops from Hatien by road and waterways to attack and seize our liberated zones in Kep, Damnak Chang-aeu, Pong Toek, Kompong Trach, Kbal Romas, Kon Sat, Phnum Voa, Ankaol, and so on. These are Vietnam's provincial forces. Eight-hundred of them were brought in, along with six tanks and many artillery pieces and multiple rocket batteries. On top of this, there were puppet troops gathered from Kampot and Takeo Provinces and also troops from six districts. The goal of this Vietnamese enemy offensive is to seize the many villages and zones we liberated in March and in early April 1991.

By 11 April, after fighting for nearly 15 days, we routed the Vietnamese enemy on this battlefield. As a result:

1. We have fully defended the vast zone we liberated in March 1991 in Kampot Province.

2. We also attacked the Vietnamese enemy in Kompong Trach District and completely liberated this district seat on the morning of 11 April 1991.

3. We killed 32 Vietnamese enemy soldiers and wounded more than 60 others, damaged a tank, and sunk four boats carrying Vietnamese troops opposite Ankaol. [passage omitted]

Enemy Offensive in Kompong Thom Routed

BK1404033691 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 13 Apr 91

["Special report from the Stoung and Kompong Svay Khang Lech battlefields in Kompong Thom Province"]

[Text] On 7 April, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors gathered 400 genuine Vietnamese soldiers and 300 puppet soldiers, along with artillery pieces, multiple rockets, and three tanks, to attack and seize our liberated zones in Stoung and Kompong Svay Khang Lech Districts, west of Route 12.

In a three-day battle, from 7 to 9 April, our national resistance forces launched a multi-pronged attack, militarily and politically, using regular troops and people's forces to attack from the front, the side, and the back, and in alternate layers with no specific front, defense line, or battlefield. This has confused the Vietnamese enemy forces; tanks and artillery do not know where to fire at the national resistance forces and where to attack. On the contrary, our guerrillas and people's forces attacked and killed or wounded one or two Vietnamese enemy soldiers here and there all over the Stoung and Kompong Svay Khang Lech battlefields.

In sum, our national resistance forces killed 22 Vietnamese enemy soldiers and wounded 30 others and damaged a tank which the enemy managed to drag back. In such a situation, the Vietnamese enemy troops launching the attack were forced to retreat to Stoung and from four positions, including the ones at (?Krabau) Village and (?Chong Toek).

We completely liberated this perimeter. It is to be noted that the Vietnamese enemy has plans to seize liberated zones in Stoung and Kompong Svay Khang Lech during the Cambodian new year. However, the enemy has been fully and shamefully defeated. Our national resistance forces and people, with their right hand, continue the battle against the Vietnamese enemy to sweep along Route 6 and also attack the Stoung district seat. The other hand organizes liberated villages to be settled in and also makes preparations for growing crops at the beginning of the approaching rainy season in order to become master in the need to provide foodstuffs to feed families.

Enemy Offensive Against Pailin Detailed

BK1404033291 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 13 Apr 91

["Report on thwarting the Vietnamese enemy's new year plan on the Pailin-Route 10 battlefield"]

[Text] The Vietnamese enemy aggressors have successively dispatched a lot of troops to seize the Pailin liberated zone. However, these attacks have been successively routed by our national resistance forces, which have completely repulsed three major offensives already by mid-April 1991.

The Vietnamese enemy still tried to amass troops from Vietnam and from various provinces and districts in Cambodia to continue their offensive against Pailin from early to mid-April. The Vietnamese enemy named this plan: The plan to score victory in the Cambodian new year. After nine days of arduous fighting, our national resistance forces attacked the Vietnamese enemy troops on the south, north, and eastern parts of the Pailin-Route 10 battlefield, forcing the enemy to fully retreat in disarray on the night of 10 April 1991. We killed 32 Vietnamese enemy soldiers—including 16 bodies which were left on the spot—and wounded over 60 others. We destroyed a tank and damaged two others.

It is to be noted that during this round of fighting, the Vietnamese enemy have injected their soldiers with drugs to strengthen their troops daily so that these soldiers do not really feel anything and just fire their weapons. These drugs are effective for three hours. However, the more the soldiers are drugged, the more indiscriminate their firing gets. This enables our national resistance forces to attack these troops at will. Our infantry troops can attack these soldiers; our mines and artillery can also hit the enemy.

On the Pailin battlefield, the Vietnamese enemy has successively used toxic shells to destroy our national resistance forces and drugs to strengthen its soldiers. This clearly shows that the Vietnamese do not know what to rely on now. The strategy, tactics, and all kinds of tricks, successively worked out by hordes of four-star, three-star, and two-star Vietnamese generals on the Cambodian battlefield for the past 12 years, have proved to be inefficient against the Cambodian people's guerrilla war and people's war in which fighting is conducted on no specific battlefield or front. Fighting is conducted on a battlefield in which we and the Vietnamese enemy are like layers of a banana tree trunk, close together. On the battlefield, we mingle with the enemy. This kind of fighting has chipped away chunks of the Vietnamese enemy regular troops; they are no longer regular troops in large units; they have been forced to spread out. The Vietnamese enemy's tanks no longer plan a strategic role; they are left wandering in the field and do not know what to fire at. The artillery and strategic multiple rockets no longer play their strategic role in the fighting; instead they have been firing at tadpoles and frogs in the vast rural area. The Vietnamese enemy is like a wasp caught in a spider's web.

For over 12 years, the Vietnamese enemy has been caught in the web of our Cambodian people's guerrilla war. If the Vietnamese enemy strive to carry on this war for another month, another season, and another year, it will get more tangled inside the web of the Cambodian people's guerrilla war, unable to move, and will finally die. No one would be so stupid as to believe the Vietnamese enemy propaganda saying that it is winning here and there and that it will win in the 13th year of this protracted war. People will be even more skeptical of the Vietnamese enemy's propaganda according to which the Vietnamese (?would win) on the military battlefield.

Laos

Phoumi Vongvichit Receives SRV Culture Minister

BK1304030091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] This morning, Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received, at the Presidential Office in Vientiane, a courtesy call from Tran Hoan, minister of culture, information, sports, and tourism of the SRV.

The talk between the two proceeded in a friendly atmosphere. On this occasion, the acting president welcomed Minister Tran Hoan and his delegation and wished them a happy time celebrating the traditional new year festival in Laos and success in carrying out activities during the visit to the LPDR. He also expressed a wish for the further fruitful development of the mutual assistance and cooperation in the information and cultural field between the two countries of Laos and Vietnam.

Accompanying the guest in paying the courtesy call on the acting president on this occasion were Son Khamvanvongsa, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and minister of information and culture, and Nguyen Xuan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRV to Laos.

Lao Front Work Reported at Party Congress

BK1204145191 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Speech by Khamtan Thepbouli, delegate of the Lao Front for National Construction, delivered at the fifth congress of the Lao People's Revolution Party held in Vientiane on 28 March—recorded]

[Text] In compliance with the resolutions adopted by the fourth congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and the party Central Committee plenums, the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee has instructed LFNC organizations at all levels to effectively implement the aforementioned resolutions and actively organize lectures and seminars to propagate the political ideology at the center and localities. As a result, the people of all strata and tribes understand and agree with the center on attitudes, line of thinking, and actions and have jointly implemented the party's lines and policies and state plans. The LFNC energetically selected personnel to run in the second election of the people's representatives at different levels and held extensive discussions on the draft constitution, thus promoting democracy among the multiethnic people and their roles in managing state and socioeconomic affairs. In line with the two strategic tasks laid down by the party, LFNC organizations at all levels, in particular the district level, have turned to the grass roots to strengthen and expand village front units—the foundation of the LFNC—to guarantee political stability and social order and improve the people's living conditions.

Despite the mentioned fundamental successes, we still have weaknesses and shortcomings. For example, the incorporation of the contents of the resolution of the fourth party congress in the front's operation program was not carried out thoroughly. Subsequently, a number of party cadres and members failed to understand and acknowledge the roles and duties of the LFNC in the new era. This causes difficulties and inconveniences for the front in its work. The LFNC organizational system in many provinces and districts has not been improved while front organizations operated with low efficiency and faced severe shortages of tools and materials. The task of creating unity among the multiethinic people has been carried out but is still far from satisfactory. The multiethnic people such as those in the remote areas are not constantly informed of the party's and state's lines and policies and are unable to identify enemy schemes. Meanwhile, the promotion of tribal identities have drawn insufficient attention. From now on, the LFNC Central Committee will instruct LFNC organizations at all levels to implement the resolution of this fifth LPRP congress so that its spirit and contents will be materialized.

Trade Union Delegate Addresses Party Congress

BK1304105591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Speech by Bounthan Souvannasouk, chairman of the Federation of Lao Trade Unions Central Committee and representative of the Union Central Committee, delivered at the Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party in Vientiane on 28 March—recorded]

[Text] Our Federation of Lao Trade Unions [FLTU] has positively encouraged and promoted emulation campaigns under many different forms in conformity with practical conditions prevailing in different sectors of work in order to step up production. As a result, plans of local administrations have been successfully fulfilled or even overfulfilled.

Through the said campaigns, many units of service, together with as many as 4,432 workers and comrade members of the trade unions, have been named outstanding models and have been praised and hailed by the FLTU Central Committee. These outstanding units and individuals have also been awarded with certificates of commendation and other prizes from their respective local administrations. Along with boosting the production movements, the trade unions at each level paid attention to carrying out the task of maintaining public security during the congress. They appropriately coordinated with the administrations in organizing to translate into reality all policies of the party and state with a view to maintaining the just interests of the workers, state employees, and trade union members. Following the implementation of the policies of the party and state, grass-roots trade unions in many areas have begun to take the offensive in assisting the administrations to carry out social welfare work in their localities.

Our FLTU has always used the party's foreign policy as the basis in carrying out international activities. In addition to maintaining ever closer relations with the labor federation of Vietnam and with the trade unions of Cambodia, the Soviet Union, and China, we, as a full member of the World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU], have further promoted and expanded our relations with the WFTU. Our FLTU has also established relations with the trade unions of various friendly countries as well as with other international organizations in the world, thereby contributing to the success in implementing the foreign policy of our party in the new stage.

These are the outstanding achievements that we have won in certain fields in the recent past. Nevertheless, our FLTU still has some weak points and remaining problems to be attentively and positively settled. For example, a considerably large number of trade union members have failed to serve as examples in taking the lead in educating and training (?themselves) and in implementing the regulations, discipline, and laws of the country. They have continued to attach importance only to the forms, instead of the contents, of methods in carrying out activities. Besides, the movements to consolidate organizational apparatuses of the trade unions at each level have failed (?to be carried out in one go).

To improve the trade union organizations at each level in accordance with the party's restructuring line, in the years to come, we pledge to strive to fulfill certain tasks as follows:

1. Continue to consolidate our organizational apparatuses from the central down to the local and grass-roots levels in accordance with the direction of being simple but strong;

2. Continue to turn to the grass roots, regard the grass roots as an original basis for carrying out activities to build all-around strong trade unions to genuinely serve as bases for workers and laboring people;

3. Positively change methods of carrying out activities which are to consist of many different forms and appropriate contents in order to serve the interests of each sector of work and to enable the trade unions to effectively organize (?cadres), workers, and state employees to widely take part in emulation campaigns to boost production;

4. Coordinate with various (?propaganda committees) in further studying and building original documents on roles, obligations, and responsibilities as well as the (?just rights) of laboring people.

5. Continue to improve and expand trade union work to serve all economic sectors and all social objectives;

6. Make efforts to (?work together) to achieve financial self- sufficiency step by step in order to reduce the burden on the state budget.

With firm confidence in the party's restructuring policy, I take this occasion to pledge to strive to study and publicize the contents and spirit of the resolution of the fifth party congress to trade union members, workers, and laboring people. I also pledge to effectively bring into full play in the trade union sector the line, objectives, and tasks as adopted by the fifth party congress.

Phoun Sipaseut Awards Outgoing PRC Ambassador

BK1504081291 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, conferred the Medal of Friendship from the Lao Government on Liang Feng, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, who has completed his mission in Laos. The ceremonial conferment of the said medal was organized in recognition of the ambassador's endeavors and achievements in strengthening friendly relations and cooperation between the parties, states, and peoples of Laos and China on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

Philippines

Salonga: U.S. Requests on Bases 'Pose a Threat'

HK1304074791 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] The two requests of the United States stipulated in the new bases treaty to be approved by both countries pose a threat to the Philippines. This was underscored by Senate President Jovito Salonga as he said that the threat was contained in the report of Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus.

It was found that Manglapus mentioned in the report that the American Government asked for a so-called piggy bank arrangement and no limitation of arms shipments in and out of the Philippines by the United States. The U.S. panel insisted that through the piggy bank arrangement they can have the Crow Valley training range five times wider than Clark Air Base, to undertake extensive training and bombing exercises. In relation to this, Salonga confirmed that fourteen senators are strongly opposed to the aforementioned requests.

Manglapus Welcomes Gorbachev Visit to Japan

OW1504063591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0610 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Manila, April 15 KYODO—The Philippines Monday welcomed the scheduled visit of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Japan, calling it a positive step in easing tensions in East Asia.

"The Philippines welcomes any easing of tensions in East Asia, and therefore views the visit of Mr. Gorbachev to Tokyo as very positive event," Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus told KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

Asked if the warming ties with Moscow could allow Tokyo to increase its military power and flex its muscle in the region, Manglapus said that to the contrary, "the less tension between Japan and the Soviet Union, the less reason for Japan to assert itself militarily."

The Soviet leader is scheduled to start a four-day visit to Japan on Tuesday, the first visit to Japan of a top Soviet leader.

Goh Chok Tong Discusses Economic Ties, Issues

BK1204152491 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Singapore will be sending an economic delegation to the Philippines to help identify the potentials and opportunities available for greater economic cooperation. The prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, speaking in Manila, expressed concern that the Philippines [words indistinct] on a new wave of investments taking place in the region. He said Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia have managed to attract these investments and the Philippines still has the potentials to attract them. He believed that Singapore can help accelerate the process by identifying the economic and geographical areas for potential investors.

Mr. Goh was speaking to reporters at the end of his two-day official visit to the Philippines.

On the issue of the U.S. presence in the region, Mr. Goh said Singapore wants the present security arrangements to continue for as long as possible. He said security in the region is necessary for economic growth.

On the Philippines' recent proposal to place a bond to reduce the U.S. $28 billion foreign debts, Mr. Goh said details of the proposal are still not available. But if there is widespread support in ASEAN and other countries, Singapore will definitely take [words indistinct].

On the issue of Filipino workers in Singapore, Mr. Goh said Singapore has suggested that the Philippine Embassy [passage indistinct]. With this endorsement, the workers will be protected. The Philippine ambassador to Singapore will be looking into the matter.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Turnover Ceremony

Biazon on Vision for Armed Forces

HK1204133091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0730 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Speech by General Rodolfo T. Biazon, outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff, during turnover ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo—live, in English; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Text] General Yap, the troop commander, please give the troops the *at ease command.*

Her Excellency President Corazon Aquino, president of the Republic of the Philippines and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces; Speaker Ramon Mitra and the members of the House of Representatives; Senator Maceda and the members of the Senate; members of the cabinet; Honorable Secretary and Mrs. Ramos; General and Mrs. Abadia; Bishop Velayo; Admiral Mercer; members of the Foreign Attache; General Nazareno; friends, ladies and gentlemen; fellow soldiers:

This afternoon, I shall relinquish my post as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP], a rare and distinct honor conferred to me by the national leadership on this very ground barely three months ago. Yet, as I address you for the last time as a soldier, I do so minus the usual retrospection into my past military achievements. Instead, I deem it more proper to dwell on my vision in the future, not for myself, but more so for this beloved institution that I consider is almost synonymous to my life.

Allow me to begin it with this question: Quo vadis soldier? Where are you going from here, soldier? This question is not directed to the soldier who is today shedding off his uniform and ending 34 years of loyal service to his country and to his people in the noble profession of arms, a calling that this soldier loved so well, to which he gave his best—the fine years of his life. This soldier is retiring from the military service, true. But he is not retiring as a citizen. And therefore, I have the right to ask this question: Where are you going, soldier?

A question that is asked not of this soldier about to face away but to the individual soldier who is going to be left behind and who will continue to serve in uniform until he too, faces away when his time comes.

This soldier saw this military organization figure prominently in some of the most eventful years in the recent period of this country's history. He witnessed and was part of the imposition of martial law—a period where the soldier was given a job which required more than his share of nation building—a role that may have diluted the concept of what a soldier should be in a constitutional democracy. This period saw the soldier driven to be involved in political, economic, and social concerns that the soldier was ill prepared for. But it is also within this period that he began to question the situation. Then he began to search for his role in Philippine society. It is a role defined for him by his people in the eventful days of February of 1986. It is a role that demands from him to listen to what his people have to say about what direction his country should take. It is a role which is described in the basic law of the land, the Constitution, that prescribed that he, the soldier, is the protector of the state and his people and further amplified by the doctrines of the soldier being apolitical and subordinate to civilian authority.

The conviction and belief on the doctrinal role of the soldier was slowly but steadily built, becoming so strong that it overwhelmed the segment within the military who believes, or would like to make us believe, in order to conceal some hidden agenda behind their deceptive moves, that military intervention by soldiers in our national life is part of the soldier's duty to his country. Nothing can be more wrong if one is to cherish the blessings of the democratic processes. This one is to go by the national state of mind which is to be free.

Now that the Armed Forces has been sufficiently consolidated around the central idea of constitutionalism, after the military has subjected from its politics, body politics, restoring virus of military interventionism, the question that has to be addressed is still: Where are you going, soldier?

As I leave you now to lead the normal life of a civilian, as I regain my freedom from the necessary restrictive and regimented life of the soldier, I leave you with the thought that you are headed towards the goal that we designed for ourselves together. The goals are now defined. It is now up to you to find the way. First, we have to contribute in giving substance to our people's dream of a peaceful and prosperous Philippines. Our mandate calls us to speed up the irreversible defeats of all the enemies of the state [words indistinct] admitting are amongst us. We have to pursue the strategies and if it need be, reassess and modify these strategies laid out very clearly in our campaign plan *Dragnet-Snare* in order that the strategic victory predicted even by our lawmakers when they enacted into law Republic Act 5975, can be fulfilled. This law states that within two to four years, the counterinsurgency campaign will be reduced to a level of strategic victory for us, that it can be handled solely by the Philippine National Police.

In this, the trend is there for strategic factors have forced the communist movement to an irreversible decline. These factors include that the democratic processes have provided legal mechanisms for change as compared to the conditions prevailing in the 1970's and early 1980's, when desperation led our people to this change through the violent means of revolution. The revolution from the left, which explained why the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] increased from a mere 300 in 1972 to more than a strength of 20,000 in 1986, and the revolution from the center, which led to the providential event of EDSA [Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue] in 1986.

The second factor covers the strategic mistake committed by the communists themselves, when they inflicted a harm upon our people by their progressive taxation, liquidating many who refuse to extend their support, bombing of power lines and bridges, burning and destroying roads, building equipments, that alienated, which alienated and continue to alienate them from our people. The third factor is the development in the communist countries of Europe, where there is apparent admission that communism is a failure as an economic and political system. These developments have led our Philippine communists as ideological [words indistinct] the people, the government, and the soldier, through a total approach solution to this problem, not total war will prevail over the threat to our way of life. Through the consolidation of the Armed Forces, we have now written finished to the problem of ultrarightists. They must not, however, be given a chance to be revived. By strengthening our firm conviction on the role of the soldier in a democratic society, I know, you, too, will prevail over this threat.

The MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front], MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] threat on the other hand remains dormant, its defeat imminent, with government economic and political programs undermining the movement. While criminal activities have been (?hogging) the headlines lately, giving an impression of instability and chaos, this is but a temporary and isolated situation which should be arrested once and for all. Their guiding ideology has already lost its credibility and influence, and thus their defeat is only just a matter of time.

After achieving this victory, then can I ask you the question: Quo vadis, Armed Forces? I see an Armed Forces of the Philippines finally withdrawing from public view as it enters the post-insurgency era, transferring the past and responsibilities of the internal threat to the newly created Philippine National Police within a few year's time. A restructured Armed Forces will shift from internal defense mode to an external defense posture. Also, an aggressive pursuit of the modest modernization program, which had already been laid out, shall result in a more streamlined Armed Forces that would be responsive to the needs of a changing geostrategic environment. The protection of our sovereignty is the ultimate goal, which means that I foresee an Armed Forces never again defenseless against any external element coasting in our marine resources; and low-level incidents of illegal incursions into our territorial boundary, without [word indistinct] almost not being able to do anything about it except to find diplomatic protest.

Only the present geopolitical arrangement in the Asia-Pacific region and the friendly relations with our neighbors keep us free of any urgent situation to attend to. Along this line, we hope that changes in these arrangement and relationships, if there will be, will continue to maintain the situation in this region of the world which has direct bearing in our national, economic, political, and social life as a nation. I see that by developing the AFP's capability to protect its sovereignty, we can contribute to that regional peace that all countries in the region are concerned about.

Of utmost importance, however, is the continuous pursuance and implementation of internal reforms within the Armed Forces. These reforms should improve the welfare, value system, ethical standard, and morale of the soldier, so that he will never again be tempted to stray away and go against his solemn oath as a soldier of this republic. And with this is the hope that the soldier of the AFP of the future will never again abandon his oath, truly believing in what he stands for. In so doing, I foresee an AFP more capable, more unified, more professional, and more dedicated to the oath of allegiance to his country and his people.

And maybe more important than my transfer of the symbol of authority of the office of the chief of staff to General Abadia, if I may be allowed to break protocol, Your Excellency, it's my request to turn over to him the code of ethics and professional standard of the Filipino soldier which is the product of the labor of almost 200 young officers for five months of meetings, strain in drafting, discussions, redrafting, and validation among the troops in the field, and then redrafting again resulting to this final form. This code, Your Excellency, defines for the soldier his role in our society.

I leave the Armed Forces with you, in the hope that I have played my utmost best in making it a better institution in our society and that I have contributed in paving the way towards the fulfilment of the vision that is shared by all soldiers, specially the current crop of leaders to be championed by the new chief of staff. I do not want to be the judge of what I have done or what I have failed to accomplish. It is the people and the leaders of this nation who possess the right to pass that judgment. Let us veer away from personalism and develop our reliance on institutions. Let the capabilities of individual leaders contribute to the strengthening of this institution and never allow the strengths or weaknesses of the individual leader to dominate the system.

To my opportuned successor, Lieutenant General Lisandro Abadia, I believe that your wealth of experience and knowledge make you truly deserving of the revered distinction of assuming the top leadership of the military hierarchy—the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. As I assure him of my full support, I likewise ask all men and women in uniform that he too be accorded the same support and cooperation you have given me. For indeed, no leader can ever succeed without the dedication and enthusiasm of his constituents.

To General Abadia, I personally believe that you will prove equal, if not surpass, our highest expectation. Under your leadership, I can say that the AFP will be in good hands.

Finally, I express my sincere thanks to the president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Her Excellency President Corazon C. Aquino, for the honor, faith, and confidence that she has given me through these years. I am proud to have been a part of the national endeavor, in the pursuit of total democracy. And I will carry this honor as my personal color and standard until they are furled and caped when it is time for me to answer the last bugle call for my last task.

Likewise, what I have achieved I owe a great deal to my predecessor, General Renato de Villa, who decorated an exemplary handling of this office, inculcated in me the motivation and vision to continue putting the military establishment into a more orderly and deserving one worthy of the people's trust and confidence. I am also deeply indebted to the Secretary of National Defense, Fidel Ramos, for without his outright and full support, my term could have been more difficult to bear. Thank you, sir. [applause]

Thank you to all of you men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for all the advancement in my life as a soldier. I consider every advancement to higher position and rank not as a recognition of my leadership but a recognition of the many men I was given the honor of leading, of the men I saw giving up their lives, of the men who were maimed for life in the jungles and beaches of Mindanao, in the plains of Luzon, and even in the asphalted jungles of the urban cities, the latest of which was the sad event of December of 1989. All of these, they did in defense of democracy and the preservation of our way of life. They were the ones who were recognized, and that includes you who will still be left behind.

And to my family, my deepest love and gratitude for all the kind understanding and support you have given me as I face the many challenges of the profession of arms, most specially to my wife, Monty [applause], who served the dual role of father and mother to my children as I spent those long years out there away from the family. My confidante, my inspiration, a million thanks to you, my dear wife. [applause]

In closing, it humbled me to think of this, so many called and few were chosen to bear arms in the defense of our nation and our people. As I set sail into the horizon of the future, I shall view it with the greatest and fervent hope that the Armed Forces will never have to be lost when asked the question: Quo vadis? And if I once was blessed with a vision, allow me the hope that finally, this vision for the Armed Forces will eventually be a reality. And as for myself, I will never cease to be a soldier of our republic. For as long as there are mountains to climb, oceans to explore even to the depth, goals to uphold and defend, I will always be among you all. Thank you to all of you.

Abadia Speech on Assuming Command

HK1204140091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Speech by General Lisandro Abadia, incoming chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, during turnover ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo—live, in English]

[Text] Her Excellency, Corazon Cojuangco Aquino, president of the Republic of the Philippines and commander in chief of all armed forces, the honorable Speaker Ramon Mitra, the honorable Fidel V. Ramos and Mrs Ramos, General Biazon and Mrs Biazon, the other distinguished members of the House of Senate and the House of Representatives, and the cabinet members and, may I greet them, Senator Tamano, Senator Maceda, Press Secretary Gomez, Secretary Santos, Congressman Yap, Congressman Romero, Congressman Onico, Senator Alvarez, the other high officials in the government present, Bishop Pelayo, Lieutenant General Flores and other generals and flag officers both active and retired, Admiral Mercier and members of the Attache Corps, and the other officers, military officers from across the seas, my mentors who are here present and there are many, Mrs. Abadia and the members of my family, other distinguished guests, officers, men, women, and civilian employees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP]: [applause]

I take command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines today amidst a brewing debate not only on the issue of presidential prerogatives or the balancing of merits and seniority in the assignment of officers to key positions, but also on insinuations and accusations regarding my competence and professional conduct. I have been swept into this whirl of events and to an arena that is indeed unfamiliar and abhorrent to me as a soldier. It is my fervent hope that after the dust shall have settled down on this controversy, I shall be a better officer and a better man than if this episode did not happen in my career and life. [applause]

Mrs President, my family and I are profoundly honored and overwhelmed by your decision to designate me as the replacement of General Biazon. I am humbled by the thought that I passed your stringent and multifaceted criteria for the selection of the highest military position of the land. [applause]

I am likewise deeply moved by the congratulations and profession of support by Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, General Rodolfo G. Biazon, Lieutenant General Guillermo Flores, Rear Admiral Proceso Fernandez, Major General Protacio, Rear Admiral Mariano Dumangcas, General Enrile, all area commanders, all members of the J-staff, all CG's [commanding generals] and CO's [commanding officers] of the AFPSU [expansion not given], all the division commanders of the Philippine Army and many more flag officers I have come in contact with.

Of significance, and for which I am certainly deeply grateful, is the manifestation of support by the entire Philippine National Police through the honorable secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Governments, Secretary Luis Santos, and Director General Cesar Nazareno, and I specially great him today and the other officers of the Philippine Natinal Police. [applause] And even without his manifestation of support, I also pledge to the Philippine National Police that I will manifest the support in cooperation of the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines. [applause]

I am indeed concerned with the possibility that my appointment will be dragged into and be a father to partisan politics. I humbly appeal to all concerned to shield the institutionally chief of staff from the fire of political debate. It would be unfortunate and disturbing if my confirmation will be decided along political boundaries. [applause] I want to be a good and effective chief of staff, and I pledge to be neutral in the exercise of my constitutional duties. [applause]

As the new chief of staff, I share the visions of General de Villa [words indistinct] through hours of candid discussions and deep introspection. The Armed Forces of the Philippines will continue in its internal reform program. Central to this reform program is the unequivocal acceptance of all officers and enlisted personnel of the role of a soldier in a democratic government: that the soldier must be a defender of the Constitution; that he must obey the duly elected and constituted authority; that he must follow the chain of command; and that he must accept the supremacy of civilian authority over the military. [applause]

The Armed Forces of the Philippines must hasten the ratification of the AFP code of ethics. If ratified by all members of the AFP, it will govern the moral and ethical behavior of all officers and soldiers alike. If the provisions of this code of ethics is internalized, it will go a long way in the AFP's fight against graft and corruption. [applause]

The Armed Forces of the Philippines will pursue a greater vigor in its campaign to hasten the defeat of the enemies of the state, both from the left and from the right. As chief of staff, I will assign myself the mission of strategically defeating the CPP-NPA-NDF [Communist Party of the Philippine-New People's Army-National Democratic Front] by 1992 [applause], through the continued vigorous implementation of the AFP campaign plan Dragnet Snare. As to the remaining rightists still at large, whose ranks have been decimated by successful detection and arrest, I will continue to seek them out and capture them [applause], while at the same time opening all avenues for voluntary return to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to face the consequences of their acts.

Sometime into the future, an amnesty law is still a distinct possibility. And if that is the political decision, I will implement it without reservation. [applause]

The Armed Forces of the Philippines, in consultation with the executive and legislative branches of government, must pursue a modernization program. As we wind down the counterinsurgency problem, the Armed Forces of the Philippines must slowly shift from internal to external defense mode. We cannot defend the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of [words indistinct] regional formation and equipment. The modernization of the Philippine Air Force and the Philippine Navy must be given priority in this to strenghten our capability to protect our marine and other resources within the internationally accepted economic zone.

In the future, the Philippine Army will be restructured and reduced but optimally modernized to make it lean and mean, ready for conventional or semiconventional operations. Although we cannot dream of a high-tech Armed Forces of the Philippines, we cannot afford to lag behind our neighbors in the ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region.

The 1992 political exercise will be a litmus test for the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We need constitutional rule to help the Commission on Elections ensure clean, honest, free, and a credible election. As chief of staff, I pledge that all officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will be neutral in their performance as deputies of the Commission on Elections. [applause]

I accept the mantle of leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines with only one thought in mind: to discharge my duties and responsibilities to the best of my ability, conscious of my human limitations but strengthened by the manifestation of support within and outside of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. More importantly, I must continually remind myself that I must unceasingly perform my job with dedication, sincerity, and competence to earn the respect of the officers, men, women, and civilian employees of the AFP. [applause]

I am succeeding a professional soldier whose deeds and accomplishments are secured in the annals of Philippine military history and in the history of this new democracy. As he bows out of the service and on behalf of the officers, men, women, and civilian employees of the AFP, I wish him good luck in his new endeavor as he examines the business and political horizons. [laughter]

Finally, I wish to publicly thank once more the following: General Biazon, for touching and giving life to my military career; Secretary Ramos, for his guidance and support for the last 24 years [applause]; and President Aquino, for putting her honor and prestige on the line for me [applause]; and to God Almighty, for all His blessings now and in the future. Thank you and good day.

Aquino Address

HK1204130091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0820 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Speech by President Corazon C. Aquino during ceremony for turnover of command of chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo—live, in English; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Text] General Rodolfo Biazon, Lieutenant General Lisandro Abadia, Secretary Fidel Ramos, Speaker Ramon Mitra, the honorable members of Congress, the officers, men, women, and civilian employees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP], *my beloved countrymen:*

We marked the AFP's third turnover of command in this administration with an appropriately simple solemnity. Changes in the Armed Forces now proceed with stability and regularity that marked a genuinely professional body. A vain attempt to embarrass this occasion has merely emphasized the firm rejection by the Armed Forces of the insubordination that stained its record in the past. The Armed Forces is determined to fully recapture and firmly hold its proper place of honor in the forefront of the nation's defense, rather than [words indistinct] the nation's stability. To that end, the Armed Forces will continue under the direction of the commander-in-chief to weed out those elements who continue to regard the AFP as merely the lever of their ambition instead of the single greatest opportunity to serve their country in the highest possible way. Let this experience show that the men of yesterday have no part in the Armed Forces of tomorrow.

I am privileged to see the Armed Forces' sword of command pass again from one to yet another staunch defender of the country and the Constitution. I am privileged to see the sword of command pass once more to an officer with a high professionalism, integrity, courage, and intelligence, which has become the norm in the military top command. For it would not do for less than the best to lead the Armed Forces of the Philippines. [applause]

And I am deeply pleased to see the command pass to one who embodies the finest in Filipino soldiery. This is a time of meaningful change, for the character of commanders shape the forces' beliefs. Yet, in our experience, it has been an affirmation of continuity. For once again the high qualities that distinguished our past chiefs of staff come to the fore with the appointment of a new one. [applause] For General Rodolfo Biazon, the appointment of General Lisandro Abadia confirms our highest esteem of the leadership he has shown in a tenure that was indeed too short a time but quite long in glory.

In the past three months, the Armed Forces has scored many more successess against the communist insurgency, while the secessionist movement in the south lived only in the imagination of those who cannot save their total defeat.

Eleven top leaders of the ultra-right were captured. The military rebellion has been reduced to the flight of a handful of fugitives from justice. The unmitigated contempt in which the rightists are now held by the public they have victimized is the best testimony of the work General Biazon has done and of the deep confidence in the Armed Forces that he has instilled in our people. [applause]

To outgoing Chief of Staff General Biazon, on behalf of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as well as our people, may I salute you for serving our country and your profession with utmost competence and total dedication. Although your tenure as AFP chief of staff has been brief, your present accomplishments as well as those prior to this post, have already made a significant impact on the AFP and on the lives of our people in full.

General Lisandro C. Abadia assumes a post that is both a tribute and a challenge—a tribute to his achievement and a challenge to his capabilities. He must show himself worthy of those who came before him and prove himself an equal example to those who will come after. There are tough acts he follows, but then he was picked because he is a tough man, a tough man who is uncompromising in his belief of the role of the soldier in a democratic government.

We do not wish him luck, as luck had nothing to do with his selection. We expect him instead to demonstrate the qualities of honor, obedience, intelligence, and courage for which he was chosen to lead the Armed Forces. *Long live the Armed Forces of the Philippines.*

New Armed Forces Chief Abadia Outlines Priorities

HK1204075591 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 12 Apr 91 p 9

[Text] Embattled new armed forces chief of staff Maj Gen Lisandro C. Abadia has disclosed four top priorities he will vigorously pursue under his leadership, particularly stamping out graft and corruption in the military.

First and foremost is neutralizing completely the threats from communist rebels, ultra-rightists and the Muslim secessionists, Abadia said in a re-taped interview of "Belez this week" in Camp Aguinaldo.

The television program hosted by Jose Maria Vetez was be aired last right on Channel 7.

Abadia also said his second priority is to continue the internal reforms in the 160,000-strong armed forces which have been fragmented of late resulting in six coup attempts.

His third priority is to rid the military of graft and corruption once and for all, he added.

Abadia who will assume as chief of staff Friday from Gen Rodolfo G. Biazon said he will be guided by the code of ethics of the armed forces to punish officers and men who commit unlawful acts, particularly graft and corruption.

The incoming chief of staff also said he will continue the work of his two immediate predecessors of "consolidating and unifying the military that no stone will be left unturned to achieve our objective."

"I see it as a shared vision," he said, adding that he has the support of the majority of the armed forces, including the entire joint staffs, area commanders and the three service commands, army, navy and air force.

Despite resigned AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] deputy chief of staff Maj Gen Alexander Aguirre questioning his capability as chief of staff, Abadia insisted he is well qualified to the job.

"I will let other people talk about by experience and qualifications," Abadia said in a separate interview before the taped-interview.

Abadia brushed aside charges that he sought the help of political patronage for his new post.

"I never sought the help of politician or political party," Abadia said.

In fact, Abadia said, he was surprised when President Aquino told him that he was her choice as the next chief of staff.

However, Abadia admitted he did meet some politicians and a high church official during a courtesy call on them shortly after being confirmed by the commission on appointments as army chief a few weeks back.

He said through the prodding of the president, he called on some senators, namely Jovito Salonga, Teofisto Guingona, Juan Ponce Enrile and Emesto Maceda and Speaker Ramon Mitra and Congressman Salvador Escudero.

Abadia also said he made a courtesy call on Jaime Cardinal Sin and even Supreme Court Chief Justice Marcelo Feman.

He termed his meetings with these people as "interface."

Abadia, considered as the architect of the AFPs' Lambat Bitag counter-insurgency program, said it is his top priority to neutralize all threat groups so he can move forward to socio- economic development.

He said he was given full assurance by by-passed AFP vice chief of staff Maj Gen Guillermo Flores, navy chief Mariano J. Dumancas Jr, army chief Brig Gen Arturo Enrile and air force chief Maj Gen Cerardo Protacio of their full support.

Abadia said he had personally talked to Flores with the latter saying, "you seek my support, you have it."

Meanwhile, the Commission on Appointments will give "every opportunity" to Maj Gen Alexander Aguirre to present his side, chairman Jovito Salonga said.

He told reporters that the CA [Commission on Appointments] would allow Aguirre and five other officers to explain claims that their seniority and merit were "disregarded" when President Aquino chose Abadia.

Kidnappers Threaten To Kill French Priest

BK1304105091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Dinaig, Philippines, April 13 (AFP)—A Moslem separatist leader working for the release of kidnapped French missionary Father Yves Caroff said here Saturday the abductors had threatened to kill the priest unless a ransom was paid. However, the local archbishop said the church would not change its earlier position of refusing to pay the ransom, and military and local government officials said they believed the priest's kidnappers had not severed their links to the separatists.

Muslimen Sema, regional chief of the Moslem secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), said they sensed the threat to Fr. Caroff when they contacted the kidnappers by radio earlier. "The indications of the statement over the radio (was) something bad will happen" to Fr. Caroff if the 10 million peso (357,650 dollar) ransom the kidnappers had demanded is not paid, Mr. Sema said.

Mr. Sema named a commander Tora-Tora and commander Walang Baro (commander No Shirt) as being behind the kidnapping of Fr. Caroff but said it was "premature" to say what group they belonged to. He reiterated previous MNLF statements that they were not involved.

Reacting to the threat against Fr. Caroff, the archbishop, Philip Smith, who has been leading the church's effort to win Fr. Caroff's release, said, "we're definitely not paying." He added that the church appealed again for the priest's safe release.

Zacaria Candao, governor of the Moslem autonomous region that includes the southern city of Dinaig, said he believed commanders Tora-Tora and Walang Baro were still part of the MNLF but added that he was "pinning hopes on what Sema can do" for the release of Fr. Caroff.

Mr. Sema denied a charge by military sources that the priest's kidnappers are part of the MNLF, adding that they had been asked to intercede for the release of Fr. Caroff by local governments secretary Luis Santos. Mr. Sema said that they hoped to establish direct contact with the kidnappers, and that if they could do so, he was hopeful the priest would be released unharmed. He also said the kidnappers told him Fr. Caroff was being fed and was still strong.

Several armed men kidnapped Fr. Caroff on March 27. An ex-MNLF guerrilla, Abogado Gado, who had kidnapped several Filipinos in recent months, had initially been blamed for the kidnapping.

Mr. Sema however supported Mr. Gado's statement that he was not behind the kidnapping of Fr. Caroff although he said Mr. Gado was part of a kidnapping syndicate with ties to the military and right- wing military rebels. He also said Mr. Gado no longer took orders from the MNLF and was viewed as a radical element by the separatists.

Local military leaders previously said they expected Fr. Caroff to be freed this weekend.

The MNLF fought a bloody guerrilla war for a separate state in the southern island of Mindanao in the 1970s, but their campaign lost steam late in the decade amid waning financial support from the Middle East, and they are largely regarded as a spent force. Many MNLF guerrillas have since turned to banditry and are believed responsible for the kidnappings of more than 20 Filipinos in recent months, many of them ethnic Chinese businessmen and their children.

NPA Confirms Antonio Zobel Elected NDF Leader

HK1304054991 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The NPA [New People's Army] confirmed that the current chairman of the the NDF [National Democratic Front] is the former president of the National Press Club. Gregorio Rosal, alias Ka Roger of the NPA, said that there has been an election recently and Antonio Zobel was chosen as NDF leader. Zobel is currently supervising the operation of the NDF, which is the political organization of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA, after the capture of its former chairman, Satur Ocampo.

NPA To Monitor Poll, Not To 'Ban' Candidate

HK1504035191 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 15 Apr 91 p 6

[By Arthur Rosales]

[Text] Lucena City—A ranking communist leader here yesterday said the New People's Army [NPA] under the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee "vowed to punish any candidate who uses goons and cheats during the 1992 elections."

In an interview over radio station DWTI, Leopoldo Mabilangan, alias Ka [comrade] Hector, chief of the NPA Banahaw Command in Quezon, also said the NPA would not ban any candidate in the 1992 presidential elections.

He said presidential contenders, excluding Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and House Speaker Ramon Mitra, were "American lackeys."

However, Mabilangan added that Sen. Joseph Estrada would have a good chance of winning if he would stick to his stand against the presence of United States military bases in the Philippines

Thailand

Minister Confident Over U.S. Trade Negotiations

BK1204150391 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Phaichit Uathawikun, minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, said he is confident that negotiations between the Foreign and Commerce Ministries and the U.S. Government would lead to a proper settlement of trade issues between the two countries. Following is a statement made by Minister Phaichit Uathawikun:

[Begin recording] [Phaichit] I think this is a problem we face every year. At this time of the year, the United States will review its priority watch list, and our country will have to conduct trade negotiations with it. So every year at this time we have this problem of trade negotiations. Anyway, judging from the good relations we have with the United States and from the smooth bilateral cooperation in various areas, I believe the problem will be settled without serious repercussions.

[Unidentified reporter] Thailand has already made several concessions, such as in the aviation talks, but why hasn't the United States taken this into consideration?

[Phaichit] I think they have taken this into consideration. Yet it is natural for every country to think of its interests first when it comes to negotiations. I believe this is the stand taken by all countries when it comes to negotiations. They must think about their benefits first. Thailand also must make a proposal that serves its interests. Anyway, as we have good relations and sympathy and understanding for each other, I think Thailand and the United States should be able to come to an agreement. We manage to reach an agreement every year. So I don't think there would be any serious problems. This is a game, that is, a method of bargaining. I don't think we should panic or think of it as a really serious matter. This is only part of a bargaining process. I believe our officials are capable enough to strike a fair

deal with the United States. On the other hand, we must accept that Thailand is a small country. [end recording]

Iranian Envoy Seeks Aid for Kurdish Refugees

BK1304014291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Bangkok, April 12 (AFP)—Iran has sought Thai relief aid for millions of Iraqi Kurdish refugees stranded in Iran after fleeing Baghdad's troops, the official THAI NEWS AGENCY (TNA) reported Friday.

Iranian ambassador to Thailand Mohammad M. Sazegara met with Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to inform him of the situation of Iraqi refugees in Iran, TNA said. Mr. Sazegara was quoted as saying he hoped the Thai Government would do its best to provide help for the refugees.

He said Iranian Government is now seeking international aid as more than one million Iraqi Kurds have fled to Iran and two million more are at the border. The most urgently needed items include food, medicine, clean water, at least 200,000 tents and one million blankets, he said.

Laos Asks Suppression of Insurgents on Border

BK1304020291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Apr 91 p A3

[By Kulachada Chaipipat and Thana Poopat]

[Text] Laos has urged Thai authorities to help suppress remnants of Lao right-wing insurgents believed to be residing along the Thai border, a senior Lao officer said yesterday.

Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat told THE NATION that in return his country would go after the remaining members of the Communist Party of Thailand [CPT] hiding in Laos.

The statement was in response to Army Commander in Chief Suchinda Khraprayun's recent proposal for joint Thai-Lao military operations to suppress insurgent movements in each other's territory when he visited Laos last month.

Thai military sources said recently Thailand wanted an exchange of intelligence information between Thai and Lao authorities on the insurgent movements in both countries and a "hot pursuit" agreement. Thailand also wanted to launch joint military operations to quell insurgent activity on both sides.

The Thai plan also includes deportation of those arrested to their countries.

However, Souban said Laos was not keen on joint suppression operations, but wanted to see each country helping suppress insurgents from the other side.

"In cases where we find members of CPT fleeing into our territory, we would take legal action against them for violating Laos' sovereignty and posing a security threat to the country", Souban said.

Souban believed that Thai authorities could distinguish between ordinary Laotians from right-wing elements who might disguise themselves as Laotian refugees or overseas Laotians entering the Thai territory.

"If Thailand can identify and arrest criminals, why can't it do the same to those people?" said Souban, adding that whether Thailand could provide Laos with this security guarantee was "a test of its sincerity".

The Thai military has continuously denied Laotian accusations that Lao right-wing insurgents disguised as Laotian refugees were residing in camps along the Thai border.

Thai officials, in trying to get rid of the scepticism, said they have asked their Laotian counterparts to inspect the refugee camps. But no Laotian inspection has been made.

Thai officials also went as far as to ask Laos to take back all the refugees as an "absolute solution."

The deputy minister said Laos wanted to take all the refugees back but found the proposed repatriation very expensive and time- consuming.

Under an agreement among Thailand, Laos and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Laos would take back 300 of those classified as genuine refugees a month and the number could go up to 500 monthly if preparation on the Laotian side was sufficient.

Souban said the process of receiving the returnees, educating them and training them for jobs before they can return to normal life has been proceeding according to the governments plan so far.

He said returnees could choose whether to go back to their families or work in the government's agricultural cooperative sector.

But he admitted that highland refugees were facing some problems after their repatriation because they had their own traditional ways of living including land encroachment and illegal logging.

Souban said Laos also planned to set up more UNHC-assisted reception centres to cope with increaced numbers of returnees. Currently there are eight reception centres along the Laotian border from Pakse in southern territoy to Bokeo in the north.

He said a joint mission of officials from UNHCR and Laos will inspect possible sites inside Laos for more reception centres.

Reports of the finding would be submitted to the tripartite meeting of Thai, Laotian and UNHCR officials

scheduled in June in Luang Prabang, the old Laotian capital, according to Souban.

Sunthon Postpones Visits to Laos, Vietnam

BK1304020091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Apr 91 p A2

[By Kokhet Chanthaloetlak]

[Text] Military council chairman Sunthon Khongsomphong said yesterday he had postponed indefinitely his scheduled visits to Laos and Vietnam because of the recent leadership change in Laos.

Supreme Commander Sunthon told reporters at former prime minister Prem Tinsulanon's Sisao residence that his plan to visit Laos initially set late this month would be called off also because he had been very busy lately.

"I'm still unable to say when I would be able to visit Laos and Vietnam," he said.

Gen Sunthon and top leaders of the armed forces yesterday called on Gen Prem at his home to bless him on the occasion of the traditional Thai New Year of Songkran.

He said the postponement of the trip would result in a delay in the proposed posting of an assistant military attache at the Thai Embassy in Vientiane and his counterpart at the Lao Embassy in Bangkok.

Supreme Command sources said the Thai government intended to present a high-class royal honour to Gen Sisawat Keobounphan, the Lao armed forces chief, although he had recently been removed as member of the powerful politburo at the recent Lao Communist Party congress.

Sisawat is known in Thailand for his role in negotiating a ceasefire after a brief border clash at Ban Romklao in Thailand's Phitsanulok and Laos' Sayabouri province from 1987 to 88.

The Thai and Lao armies completed pulling back their troops from all disputed areas along the entire border at the end of last month following an agreement to boost bilateral ties reached during a visit to Vientiane by Thai army chief Suchinda Khraprayun in early March.

"Gen Sisawat has contributed significantly to the improved relations between Thailand and Laos," one of the sources said.

The sources said the royal honour could be presented to the Lao military chief through any high-level Thai delegation visiting Laos in the near future or the Thai ambassador to Vientiane.

Sunthon initially planned to present Sisawat with the Knight Grand Cross of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant—the highest class of royal decoration for foreign dignitaries—during his visit to Laos.

Ex-Premier Chatchai Receives Royal Decoration

BK1304015291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Apr 91 p A2

[By Piyanat Siwalo]

[Text] Ex-Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan was awarded a royal decoration yesterday but kept his other activities in low profile, on his second day back in Thailand.

It was earlier expected that Chatchai, who returned from London on Thursday, would open his Ratchakhru residence for reporters to offer him their blessings on the occasion of Thailand's traditional new year's day—Songkran Festival.

But reporters were left waiting outside his house on the special day.

In the morning, some former Chat Thai Party MPs [Members of Parliament] paid a visit to the Ratchakhru residence. The guests included ex-PM's Office minister Gen Han Linanon and former deputy interior minister Sano Thianthong.

Some of the guests brought along implements used for the Bai Sri Su Khwan—a northeasterners' blessing ceremony. Reporters were not allowed to take part in the ceremony inside, but did enjoy a buffet outside at noon.

Chatchai left his home for Chitlada Palace at 2.20 pm with a police motorcycle leading his sedan. No military officers showed up to escort him like they did when the ex-premier arrived at Don Muang Airport yesterday morning.

A crowd of photographers got their best close-up shots when a smiling Chatchai lowered his window to greet reporters as his car emerged from the gate.

The ceremony to award royal decorations to Chatchai and other government and military officals was also attended by Supreme Commander Gen Suthon Khongsomphong and Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun.

National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] Chairman Sunthon arrived at the palace around 2.40 pm, 10 minutes after Chatchai. NPKC vice Chairman Suchinda arrived earlier.

Chatchai left the palace and returned home around 3.15 pm. He and his wife, Thanpuying Bunruan Chunhawan, then paid respects at two spirit shrines inside the family compound, witnessed by reporters peering over the fence.

A well-known Buddhist monk from Kanchanaburi, Luang Pho Uttama, who had last year performed a ceremony to chase evil sprits away from Government House for Chatchai, also paid a visit to the Ratchakhru residence.

Motorcycle police patrols with soldiers riding pillion were seen repeatedly passing Chatchai's house. Special Branch Police in mufti and officers from the National Intelligence Agency were noticed mingling among reporters waiting outside Chatchai's hosue.

It was believed that Chatchai wanted to avoid further trouble that might result from giving interviews. He had said, while in London, that he was afraid that "a third party" might try to create political unrest when he returned to Thailand for the royal ceremony.

Council Leaders Visit Chatchai

BK1404012291 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Apr 91 pp 1,3

[Text] National Peace-keeping Council leaders Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and Adm Praphat Kritsanachan, who ousted Gen Chatchai Chunhawan in a coup d'etat seven weeks ago, yesterday visited the former prime minister to perform a Rod Nam Dam Hua Songkran ceremony for him.

The three military leaders arrived at Gen Chatchai's Soi Ratchakhru with a bouquet of flowers at 9.25 a.m. and performed the ceremony of paying respect and asking for the blessing of an elder as part of the Thai new year celebration.

Gen Sunthon, Gen Suchinda and Adm Praphat came out of the house at 10.10 a.m. with a jovial Gen Chatchai and his wife Thanphuying Bunruan seeing them to their cars. Gen Chatchai was seen laughing with the three military leaders and giving Gen Sunthon, the NPKC chairman, a hug before they left.

Those who came to see the former prime minister yesterday were mostly relatives and friends. A Rod Nam Dam Hua ceremony planned earlier by Chat Thai MPs for Gen Chatchai did not take place.

Former Chat Thai MP and prime ministerial aide, Mr Det Bunlong, was the only MP seen at Soi Ratchakhru yesterday.

Det told reporters he talked to Gen Chatchai mostly about playing golf in England.

"Gen Chatchai said that he was fine. No problems. He jogs three kilometres every day in England," Det said.

Asked if the ousted premier had problems with money since his assets have been frozen for investigation, Det replied:

"He said this was not a problem because he doesn't have to use much money nowadays."

Mr Det said the former premier asked if anyone had criticised his handling of the economy in the last government and was told that no one had done so. "Gen Chatchia felt relieved to hear that because he was worried about the economy," Det said.

He said there was no talk of the current administration because this was a matter for the Anan Panyarachun Government.

Mr Det said Gen Chatchai was very glad and honoured to have received the Royal Decoration on Friday because only three former prime ministers have received it.

Gen Chatchai was yesterday to visit the Supreme Patriarch at Wat Yannasangwon in Chon Buri. Two Highway Police cars came to Soi Ratchakhru but left after the visit was apparently cancelled.

Gen Chatchai was also to hold a religious ceremony at Wat Phra Si Mahathat in Bang Khen to make merit for his ancestors yesterday morning, but the ceremony did not take place. Temple officials said it may be held today since Gen Chatchai always held the ceremony on April 14.

Gen Chatchai is to have an audience with the Princess Mother at Doi Tung Palace in Chiang Rai today.

Meanwhile, at the home of M.R. Khukrit Pramot, former MPs turned up to perform a Rod Nam Dam Hua ceremony for the elder statesman.

Social Action Party secretary-general Montri Phongphanit, Ratsadon Party leader Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan and SAP leader Dr Kasem Sirisamphan turned up for the ceremony at Soi Suan Plu. Reporters were told that M.R. Khukrit did not want to give interviews yesterday.

Vietnam

Spokesman on U.S. Relations, Cambodia Issue

BK1504104891 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry maintains that normalization of Vietnam-U.S. relations conforms to the interests of the two peoples and of peace, stability, and development in Southeast Asia. The spokesman was speaking in an interview granted to VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY on Monday on the U.S. plan to normalize its relations with Vietnam which has been mentioned recently by American public. He noted that normalization of relations will facilitate the bilateral cooperation to settle humanitarian problems and other issues of common concern, including the Cambodian issue. Vietnam is ready to continue constructive negotiation with Washington to achieve this goal.

On the Cambodian issue in particular, Vietnam reiterates its wish for an early overall political solution to this question. Vietnam agrees to take the framework document of the five countries as a foundation to solve the Cambodian issue on the basis of respecting Cambodia's independence and sovereignty and agrees to UN's important role in implementing the agreement on Cambodia. Vietnam stresses the need to convene a meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia for the Cambodian factions to solve the internal affairs of Cambodia, implement a cease-fire among the sides as well as the Soviet-American initiative of temporarily halting foreign aid to Cambodian factions. This will help create conditions to early reconvene the Paris International Conference on Cambodia on the settlement of the Cambodian issue on the basis of respecting Cambodia's independence and sovereignty and in conformity with the UN Charter.

VNA Rejects U.S. Charge of Troops in Cambodia

BK1504103091 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] According to XINHUA NEWS AGENCY and radio the Voice of America, Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of State Richard Solomon told the U.S. Senate on 11 April that Vietnam still maintains a considerably great amount of troops in Cambodia. VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is authorized to reject the above-said allegation. VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY recalled that by September 1989, Vietnam had completely withdrawn its troops from Cambodia. Any allegation on the military presence of Vietnam in Cambodia is only to cover the fact that the three Khmer factions, especially the Khmer Rouge, continue to receive military aid from outside and to increase their military activities in Cambodia.

Le Quang Dao Receives Cambodian, Japanese Envoys

BK1204161091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] On 12 April, National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao received Uch Borit and Hiroyuki Yushita, ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary from Cambodia and Japan to Vietnam respectively, who paid a courtesy call on him. Chairman Le Quang Dao had cordial talks with the two ambassadors.

PRC Envoy Visits Chinese Internationalists' Tombs

BK0904144291 Hanoi VNA in English 1305 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 9—Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Zhang Dewei and a number of the embassy staff members have paid tributes to Chinese internationalists, who died in Vietnam during the Vietnamese people's anti-U.S. resistance war, at cemeteries in Bac Thai and Hoang Lien Son Provinces, north of Hanoi.

The visit was arranged by the Vietnam-China Friendship Association on the occasion of the Chinese 'Qing Ming' (grave- visiting day).

During the visit, the Chinese ambassador and his entourage also met with leading officials, and toured several economic and cultural establishments in these localities.

Polish Foreign Ministry Delegation Pays Visit

BK1304143291 Hanoi VNA in English 1246 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 13—A Polish Foreign Ministry delegation led by Deputy Minister J. Majewski visited Vietnam from April 10-13.

While here, the delegation paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and was cordially received by Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. The Polish head delegate conveyed to Nguyen Co Thach Polish Foreign Minister H. Majewski's invitation to pay an official visit to Poland.

The delegation held talks with a delegation of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry led by Deputy Minister Le Mai. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations as well as on international issues of common concern. The two sides reaffirmed their wish to maintain and develop the friendship and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

The delegation paid a social call to Bui Danh Luu, minister of finance and president of the Vietnamese section in the Vietnam- Poland Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. It has working sessions with the minister and other senior officials of the Commerce Ministry and with the Vietnam- Poland Friendship Association.

Vice-Minister of Commerce Le Kim Lang and Polish Ambassador Stanislaw Gebala signed a protocol on trade and payments between the two countries.

Before his departure, the Polish vice-minister met with Vietnamese mass media workers.

Party Congress Completed in 80 Districts, Towns

BK1204161991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] More than 80 districts, wards, and towns in country completed their first round party congress by 25 March.

Hai Hung completed the district and ward congresses earliest and proceeded to organize the provincial party congress at the end of March.

Hanoi, Hai Phong, and Ha Son Binh have basically completed their district, ward, and town party congresses.

In the southern provinces, party congress proceeded at a slower rate, with some districts still conducting their pilot congress.

Before the congresses, the party committees of districts and wards compiled members' opinions from the grassroot congresses on issues that needed to be discussed and views that needed to be clarified.

At the congress in Phu Xuyen District of Ha Son Binh 21 issues were raised. In other districts, between eight to 15 important issues were discussed.

Many places appointed a presidium to manage the discussions to enable representatives to have more time to express their opinions.

Many representatives took part in defining the achievements of the Vietnamese revolution after four years of renovation, the lessons, and especially the causes of mistakes in the socioeconomic field.

Many identified Vietnam's socioeconomic development measures, especially the practical economic policies to solve pressing problems such as low production from different economic sectors, unemployment, and the need to improve the material and spiritual life of workers.

Many representatives stressed the importance of party leadership in the new period including the party organization, the role of party members with the many economic sectors, and the function and duties of the party grass-root organizations.

The congresses elected representatives to attend party congresses at provincial and city levels in conformity with regulations and procedures. Most chose their representatives after one round of elections. Many leading cadres of provinces, towns, and party committees received many votes.

Many echelons in provinces, cities, districts, and wards considered the main duties of the locality as important as the congress proceedings. Moreover, the congress have already planned the party committee's activities for the second round of the party congress. In doing that, organizing the party congress became intertwined with production in the daily lives of people, thus solving many of their problems and increasing their confidence in the party.

Top Leaders Attend Funeral of Noted Professor

BK1404125891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] A funeral service was held in Hanoi on 2 April for professor Nguy Nhu Kontum, holder of the people's teacher title. Attending the function were Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Dao Duy Tung, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party; and many other party and state top leaders.

Comrades Pham Van Dong, adviser to the CPV Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; and Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly, sent wreaths to pay their last tributes to the late professor.

Also attending the function were more than 100 home and foreign delegations, representing ministries, sectors, mass organizations, universities, research institutes, and hundreds of students from Hanoi University.

Reading the obituary at the ceremony, Education and Training Minister Tran Hong Quan said: Professor Nguy Nhu Komtum, a scholar and a revolutionary veteran, devoted 40 years to the education sector, 20 years of which were devoted to Hanoi University. The professor made great contributions to training many generations of students for the nation, and many of them have become notable scholars, scientists, and outstanding education specialists. Due to his great efforts, the state bestowed professor Nguy Nhu Komtun with the noble title of the people's teacher. Throughout his life, the professor followed the footsteps of President Ho Chi Minh. He profoundly realized the sacred duties of a teacher. He was not only a scientist and a scholar, but also a noted social activist at home and abroad.

A large group of professors, scientists, students, and members of the bereaved family escorted professor Nguy Nhu Komtum to his eternal resting place at the Mai Dich cemetery in Hanoi.

Ministry of Interior Reviews Security Work

BK1404085691 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The Ministry of Interior has just held a meeting to review the national security protection movement and the internal security work of central offices and enterprises this year.

In the complexity of the international and regional political situation last year, international reactionary forces tried every crafty way to sabotage the socialist revolution in our country. Therefore, our internal security work has special importance.

In the past, the international reactionary forces established many centers for ideological sabotage, propaganda, and contact with the exiled Vietnamese reactionaries to carry out sabotage.

Thanks to the close coordination between sectors and echelons, the internal security has frustrated all such perfidious schemes.

In reviewing the internal protection work in 1990, Ministry of Interior granted credit flags to three units for their outstanding achievements in the national security protection movement. They were the Central Cryptography Sector, the Uong Bi Power Plant, and the Bim Son Cement Plant. The staff and workers of the Thanh Cong Textile Plant of Ministry of Light Industry, especially, were honorably decorated as "Hero of the People's Armed Forces".

The Ministry of Interior and the Counterintelligence Department also granted certificates of merit and "Determined To Win" titles to 19 units and individuals for their outstanding achievements in internal security work.

Australia

National Bank Chief Says Dollar Too High

BK1404075491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Canberra, April 14 (AFP)—The Australian dollar should ideally be eight cents lower than its current rate of about 78 U.S. cents, a leading Australian banker said here Sunday.

National Australia Bank (NAB) chief Don Argus, speaking on television, said the Aussie dollar was too high at its present level.

The NAB boss said he would prefer the dollar to trade "round about the 70 cents mark."

"That would be tremendous to encourage exports and we certainly need exports, but again it's a matter of timing," he said.

"I'm not advocating government intervention but I think if you've got an interest rate that is high relative to other jurisdictions, then that's an attraction for those that want to speculate in your currency," Mr. Argus said.

Australia has the seventh most commonly traded currency in the world, he added. "You have to wonder why that is so, particularly when we've got the deficit we've got and the trading imbalance."

Speculation owing to high interest rates would make it difficult for the government to correct the currency's value, Mr. Argus said.

The Australian dollar closed here Friday at 78.31 U.S. cents, down slightly from 78.43 U.S. cents the previous week.

Australia's current account deficit for the first eight months of fiscal year 1990-1991 stood at 12 billion dollars (9.4 billion U.S.) compared with 15.5 billion dollars (12 billion U.S.) a year earlier.

Problems with the foreign exchange rate were highlighted last week after Australian Education, Employment and Training Minister John Dawkins questioned free market "fetishism," particularly in the floating exchange rate.

Mr. Dawkins was rebuked in cabinet for his outspokenness and Treasurer Paul Keating ruled out any change in the Australian Government's exchange rate policy.

New Zealand

Prime Minister Vows No Economic Policy Change

BK1404080091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0559 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Wellington, April 14 (AFP)—New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger has said his government will not change its tough economic policies despite an opinion poll that showed the opposition Labour Party holding a strong lead.

"The government won't buckle," he said Saturday in a speech to business leaders in Wellington.

Friday's poll, commissioned by New Zealand Television, asked a cross section of voters which party they would support in a general election.

For the first time in 20 months, Labour moved ahead of the ruling National Party with 42 per cent support against 36 per cent for the government. The remaining 22 per cent had no preference.

And for the first time since the election in October last year, opposition leader Mike Moore moved ahead of Mr. Bolger as the preferred prime minister, with 21 per cent against Mr. Bolger's 17 per cent.

The last television poll, conducted in March, put the National Party at 43 per cent with Labour three per cent behind. Mr. Bolger had a personal rating of 22 per cent and Mr. Moore 19 per cent.

The government's dramatic slump in popularity followed its decisions to introduce legislation to cut the power of trade unions and to slash unemployment and welfare payments.

Mr. Bolger said New Zealanders were generally still unaware of the economic crisis facing the nation.

The opposition leader, speaking Saturday at a Labour Party meeting, predicted the government would lose the next election in 1993.

The prime minister and his cabinet are grappling with a projected budget deficit this financial year of 1.4 billion New Zealand dollars (826 million U.S.), which is forecast to grow to more than five billion dollars (2.95 billion U.S.) in 1993.

The government has pledged not to raise taxes and is drastically reducing expenditure in an attempt balance the books.

Papua New Guinea

Government Accused of Violating Peace Accord

BK1504064491 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The rebel government in Bougainville has accused Papua New Guinea of violating the Honiara Peace Accord by launching an armed attack on the island by Defense Force soldiers over the weekend. Radio Australia's Port Moresby correspondent, Brian Abbott, says a group of up to 60 soldiers is reported to have stormed ashore at (Mapivi), north of Arawa. He says a Defense Force patrol boat is also reported to have shelled the main Bougainville Revolutionary Army camps south of Arawa.

The soldiers reportedly used explosives to destroy a bridge 16 km from Arawa, effectively cutting all road transport from Arawa to the north of the island. Our correspondent says no one in the Papua New Guinea Government will confirm that the attack took place although diplomatic sources in Port Moresby say there are indications that something occurred on Bougainville during the weekend.

A statement released by the rebel interim government accused acting prime minister, Mr. Ted Diro, of again acting viciously by ordering the attack by the troops.